

Lies, Deceit & nefarious Schemes

MAY BE WHAT YOU REALLY WERE HOPING TO GET, BUT WHAT YOU WIND UP WITH IS REALLY JUST #20 OF

THE

BRUTUS

BULLETIN

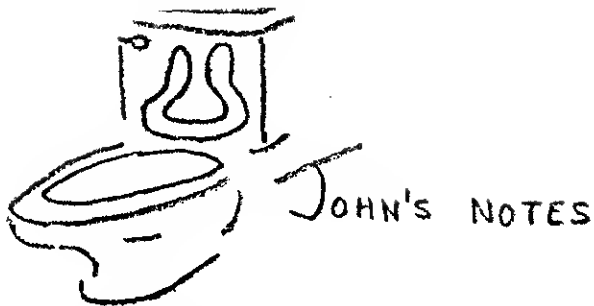
ET TU, BRUTE

The BRUTUS BULLETIN, North America's Numero Uno (that means #1, as in Best) Dipzine, is coming to you for the twentieth straight time from the pen and Xerox of John Michalski, Rt 10, Box 526-Q, Moore, Oklahoma 73165, USA, a fellow who intends to blow his own horn over the vote in the '78 Leeder and Lipton polls until he is sure that every other publisher in North America plugs John Leeder's 1979 poll Six months in advance, and every month thereafter, just to spare the hobby any more colophons like the one you're now reading. BB is a newsletter of postal DIPLOMACY, a game invented by Alan Calhamer and copyrighted by the Avalon Hill Co. of Baltimore, issues coming out like the games, once every two weeks on the dot. That's two weeks issue to issue, not next deadline two weeks after the GM figures you'll get this if your mail is held up a week in transit. This little gem is available for the rate of 12/\$3, a rate which is both cheap today and, with the level of education being what it is, I might point out equals 25¢ per copy. BB is dedicated to running a few games FAST and fairly cheap, nothing more; however, the editor also likes filler of all sorts right up to the 2 oz limit (and sometimes 4oz), so there's lots of that too. Unlike what you see in society around you, THIS thing in your hands is right of center, due to it being published by what Bob Lipton called "such a rightwing nut I wouldn't sit at the same table with". However, letters, jokes, cartoons, puzzles, brickbats, ads, recipes, advertisements, junk mail, and almost anything else aside from John Boardman's IMPERIAL DIARY will be run here as filler and is indeed encouraged. Letters, such as this issue is stuffed with, will be run with anything you sign your name to. I hope you're not too sick of the burning question as to whether Bernie Tretick is really Clark Oaklyn, mild mannered reporter for a great metropolitan newspaper, STARS & STRIPES... 'cuz this issue is full of it! Fear not, though, there's lots of other goodies too. AND, there are still some

G A M E O P E N I N G S

with a guest Gamemaster, Galen Workman.

Write him for spots at 3531 E Wilton St #C, Long Beach, CA 90804. Sub includes one gamefee for now, but prices will change December 1. Get 'em while they're hot!

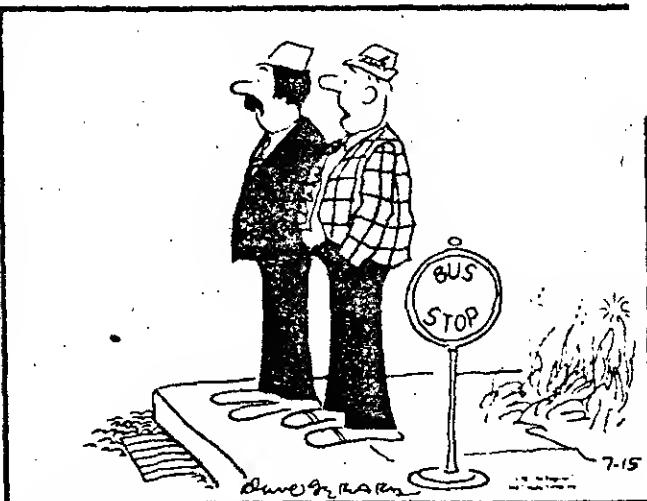


LIFE IN THE COUNTRY, Part II. Almost invariably, the first remark out of people's mouth after looking over the 2 3/4 acres of yard is, "Lot to mow, isn't it?" Yep it is. It needed it pretty bad when we moved in, thanks to two good rains and the fact that the outbound folks mowed it only once, to get it sold, I suspect. Fortunately, there is sort of a 'nature strip' of raw, wild, never-mowed land along the back, leaving leaving something under 2 acres to mow. I gave it a try with the trusty 6-yr-old Sears push-type power mower we had, and in four days, got about half of what needed done, done. At least that removed any lingering doubts as to whether we really needed a riding mower or not. So, the wife went out and found the sale dates, and as soon as one started, got one. I thought, foolishly, she was getting the \$800 one on sale for \$600; they delivered what she ordered, the \$1000 one on sale for \$800. Oh, well. \$10 a month forever... They were cheaper at Target, but what do you do then when they break down? The locals take a hammer and baling wire to it, but I'm a city boy (Thank goodness!), so I let someone fix it who knows what he's doing. That rules out me just as it does them. So, the buying choice is Sears or Montgomery Ward.

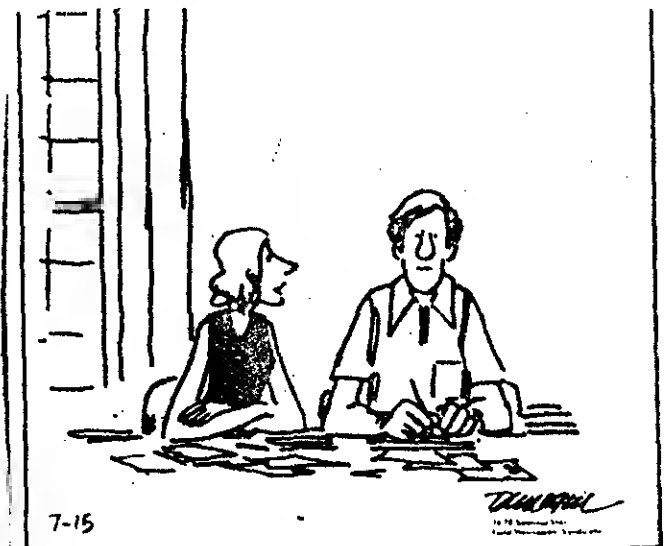
If you're like me, your experience with riding mowers consists of seeing them now and then, that's all. They look easy to run--rather like putt-putting around the golf course in a golf cart. In fact, though, there are some hidden surprises for the newcomer. Grasshoppers, for instance. The reaction of grasshoppers to being threatened with an oncoming propeller is to attack the thing. So they fly up at YOU. This can be unnerving, for as you duck them, you can drive into a low branch or hole or stump. Seen from afar, there's nothing to driving one. However, sitting on the open vehicle, you notice things that aren't apparent from afar, such as the lay of the land. A mild slope that the pedestrian doesn't even notice DOES become apparent when you try to turn. Going up or down the face of a grade, you don't notice it either. However, try to TURN so as to travel across the face of the slope, and you instantly feel the change! It doesn't take much at all to give you the distinct feeling of tipping over. My wife, who grew up on a farm here around tractors all the time, says "Those things never really tip over". I'll bet half the people killed by tractors each year thought just that! Well, riding mowers do have one distinct advantage aside from area covered per time: when you mow over doggy do-do, you don't walk into the freshly smeared mess. Leaving you with that refreshing thought....

Next time, "Hey Culligan Man!"

CITIZEN SMITH



"I've suddenly gone from lower middle class to upper lower class and I still make the same salary!"



"There's still hope for the middle class . . . If we can be declared an endangered species."

Cartoons courtesy of Miles Kehr

77KN

CZAR MISSES OUT! COOPERATION IN AFRICA?

Summer, 1909: French F Tun r NAF

FALL, 1909:

AUSTRIA (KASSEL): A Pie-TYO; A BOH S A Pie-Tyo; A VEN S TURK F Nap-Rom; A Tus S TURK F Nap-Rom/d/r Pie, Otb; A SIL & A UKR S A Gal-War; A Gal-WAR

FRANCE (DITTER): F Nth-HOL; F Mid-WES; F Tyn-TUS; F GLY S F Tyn-Tus; F Wes-TUN; F NAF S F Wes-Tun; A Gas-MAR; A MUN-Tyo; A BUR-Mun; A RUH S A Bur-Mun

ITALY (KELLY): A Rom S FRENCH A Tyo-Ven/d/r OTB

RUSSIA (McELVANEY): NMR! Fs DEN, BER, KIE H As MOS, PRU, LVN, STP H A War H/ann.

TURKEY (HUESTON): F Nap-ROM; F Tun-ION; F Ion-NAP; F AEG S F Tun-Ion; A SEV-Mos

1909: Austria: Home Ser Gre Rum Ven WAR	8	build one
France: Home Spa Por Lvp Bel Lon Tun Mun Wap HOL	11	was 1 short, build
Italy: Wap	0	out
Russia: StP Mos Wap Nwy Swe Edi Wap Den Kie Ber	8	was 2 short, I an
		now 1 short
Turkey: Home Bul Sev NAP ROM	<u>7</u>	build two
	34	

Deadline for Winter, 1909, and Spring, 1910, will be my mail received here FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1978. Orders may be made conditional on players and builds. Players are reminded to list one set of orders as ALL-OTHER-CASES, and to send them to John Michalski, Harper Oil Company, 904 Hightower Building, Oklahoma City, OK 73102. Orders to my home are OK EXCEPT on the deadline day, when they will NOT be able to make it, so beware! Labels going to players.

Will JACK FROST, 647 Fenton, Romeoville, IL 60441 please submit standby orders for Russia if he wishes?

MY THANKS to RON KELLY for playing out a less than enviable position to the bitter end. Any end-game comments you might wish to make could be sent in now, Ron, while the game is still in mind. Or should I say 'if'?

LATE NOTE: Just got John McElvaney's orders late(I'm typing this Thursday AM). Postmarked September 4. It SHOULD have made it.....

77KN Press: PARIS to AUSTRIA & TURKEY: You two may settle for a four-way draw but Russia, I, and Italy have other ideas. We will not stop smashing until you're both reduced to pulp.

PARIS-ROME: Or you are--gulp.

DEADLINE for this one will allow you a small break, with Winter adjustments and spring orders due FRIDAY, Sept 22. I will be moving back to Mondays in another increment, since with orders coming to the work address, game business will be completed before I get home Monday nights. Also, it will have the end effect of giving you an extra week, spread over the course of a couple of months... Big break. hey?

Sohio Natural Resources Company) Docket Nos. G-2588, et al.
and)
Sohio Petroleum Company)

Plug Department: A new zine just crossed my desk that looks quite promising. It's name is Retarius, and it's published by a Ted McDonald, 4711 Tuckerman St., Riverdale, MD 20840 . Openings in: Diplomacy, Machiavelli, Gladiators, Revolution. Write ted, and I'm sure he will be glad to send you a sample.

77KS

POST OFFICE FORCES OUR FIRST DELAY!!

Due to what appears to be a serious Postal mess-up of this game, I have been VERY reluctantly forced into delaying this a week. Players have been notified earlier. I hope to run it with next week's 78AX results, or if not, then with next season's KN results. It SHOULD be back on track very shortly.



"And I was SO looking forward to a season without Shaffer...."

77KS Press: Berlin: Here come those scummy Heathens again!

Kiel: We heartily disapprove with the correction of "obvious" oversights and do so lodge our protest with the appropriate authorities.

1977 KS: All draws failed. Proposed are 1. Concession to Turkey 2.A "T-T-T-T" draw. 3. "Concession to Michalski". In this case, no vote received is a NO vote except on #3 whose votes will not count, but may be printed as press.

SHAFFER: Send in some end-game commentary while the game is still fresh in mind I'm sure YOU will be mentioned by many others... *J.M.*

✓Pseudo-Press on reverse!

Several Men on the Moon

8th Man (Vic) What is black press?
 4th Man (Irving) Kineco press you dummy! And blue press is ditto.
 2nd Man (Bill) Don't forget that "pink press" is Ricks favorite.
 1st Man (Dick) Ah, Screw You!
 11th Man (Mark) No, screw me, Mark I.
 9th Man (Lenny) So why does John make such a big deal out of black press?
 11th Man Mark II.
 10th Man (John) It is an ego trip. I can say I publish...
 11th Man Mark III.
 10th Man ..."Big and Bad" Brutus Bullentin.
 11th Man Mark IV.
 2nd Man So why do you let fagots like Dick in?
 11th Man Mark V.
 1st Man I AM NOT GAY!!!!
 11th Man Mark VI.
 5th Man (Joe) Yes you are Dick. We have been going together for several...
 11th Man Mark VII.
 5th Man ...Months now, or do you wish to break off our engagement?
 11th Man Mark VIII.
 6th Man (Lee) Tell Mark to shut the Hell Up!
 11th Man Mark IX.
 6th Man Why not shot Mark, or better: chuck this press!
 11th Man Mark X!
 10th Man Never, give me that press. I gotta have some press.
 11th Man Mark XI.
 1st Man Don't worry. I have a system that will guarantee no more black press.
 11th Man Mark XII.
 7th Man (Bill the Ass) Uh, Ian playing, in, uh, 1977KS, duh, I think?!
 11th Man Mark XIII.
 8th Man What is your "great plan"?
 11th Man Mark XIV.
 3rd Man (Tom) Yea, what is it.
 11th Man Mark XV.
 1st Man None of your Damn Business!
 5th Man Well you can argue all day, but I am going to eat lunch.
 11th Man Mark XVI.
 Several others: Wait for us.
 11th Man Mark XVII.
 6th Man Good idea! It will end this nonsense once again.
 11th Man Mark XVIII.
 1st Man Only for a little while. About 2 weeks.
 11th Man For XIX, Mark XX, Mark XXI, Mark XXII, Mark XXIII, Mark XXIV, Mark XXV, Mark XXVI, Mark XXVII, Mark XXVIII, Mark XXIX, Mark XXX, Mark XXXI, Mark XXXII, Mark XXXIII..... Mark CLXXXIII.....
 10th Man Mark could go on all day, so let us end it here.
 All of the readers: Finally! (Galen Workman-Yea, some 1977KS press!!!!!!!!!!)

((The above is probably Black Press, but since this is a big issue, let's just call it "neutral" press and run it as filler)) J.M.

The following explanations for various automobile accidents were plucked from insurance claim forms by Tilden Ltd, Canada's foremost car rental agency. Thanks to Walter Blank for providing them.

Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.

The other car collided with mine without giving prior warning of its intentions. I thought my window was down but found out it was up when I put my hand through it.

I collided with a stationary truck coming the other way.

The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I finally hit him.

In my attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole.

The gentleman behind me struck me on the backside. He then went to rest in the bush with just his rear end showing.

I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law in the back seat and headed over the embankment.

I had been shopping for plants all day and was on my way home. As I reached an intersection a hedge sprung up obscuring my vision. I did not see the other car.

I had been driving my car for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had the accident.

The accident occurred when I was attempting to bring my car out of a skid by steering it into another vehicle.

I had been learning to drive with power steering. I turned the wheel to what I thought was enough and found myself in a different direction going in the opposite direction.

I was backing my car out of the driveway in the usual manner when it was struck by the other car. In the same place I had been struck several times before.

To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front, I struck the pedestrian.

I was on my way to the doctor with rear end trouble when my universal joint gave way, causing me to have an accident.

I was taking my canary to the hospital. It got loose & flew out the window. The next thing I saw was his rear end and there was a crash.

My car was legally parked when it backed into the other vehicle.

I told the police I was not injured, but on removing my hat found I had a fractured skull.

I was sure the old fellow would never make it to the other side of the road when I struck him.

Excerpt from ELECTRA GLIDE BLUE #20, continued.

As I approached the intersection, a stop sign appeared in a place where no stop sign had ever appeared before. I was unable to stop in time to avoid the accident.

When I saw that I could not avoid a collision, I stepped on the gas and subsequently crashed into the other car.

The indirect cause of this accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth.

I first saw the slow-moving, sad-faced old gentleman when he bounced off the hood of my car.

The accident happened when the right front door of a car came around the corner without giving any signal.

A pedestrian I did not see hit me and then went sliding under my car.

The pedestrian had no idea which way to go so I ran over him.

An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle, and vanished.

AUSTRIA BIDS US A FOND FAREWELL. ENGLISH FLEETS FEEL GAS SHORTAGE. R-T ON THEIR WAY!

1978AX FALL, 1906

AUSTRIA (SERGEANT): A Ven H/d/r OTB (NOT Rom, so -Otb)

ENGLAND (HUESTON): NMR! Fs MAO, IRI, BEL, ENG, HOL, NTH H; F Den H/d/r Ska, Hlg, Otb

FRANCE (HUNT): F POR-Spasc; F PIC S F Bre; F BRE H; A Mar-Pie/d/r Gas, Otb

ITALY (KIRCHNER): F Nap H/d/r Rom, Otb; F SPAsc & A BUR S A Pie-Mar; A Pie-MAR

RUSSIA (KASSEL): F Cly-LVP; F NWY-Nth; F Bal-DEN; A SWE S F Bal-Den; A Ber-KIE;

A MUN & A RUH S A Ber-Kie; A Vie-BOH; F RUM H; A BUD H

TURKEY (WORKMAN): F AEG H; F ION S F Apu-Nap; F Apu-NAP; F ADR S A Tri-Ven;

A Tri-VEN; F Tun-TYN; A Bul-SER; A Tyo-PIE

Would RON KELLY, 6038 Richmond Highway, #314, Alexandria, VA 22303, please submit standby orders for ENGLAND should he choose to accept? I think Steve's mail is just late, but,....

THERE IS A CALL FOR A CONCESSION TO R-T. Please vote with your orders. IN THIS CASE, a NO-VOTE-RECEIVED will count as a YES vote!!

MY APOLOGIES for this sheet being 18 hours late, which may cost you a day. I waited to check at home for missing orders the last day, but got none. Here is 1906:

Austria:	Edi	0	Remove one, out
England:	Edi Ltp Lon Den Kie/Hol Bel	4	Remove three
France:	Bre Mar Spa Por	2	Remove 2
Italy:	Ven Rom Nap Par MAR SPA	4	Even
Russia:	Home Rum Nwy Swe Ber Mun Vie BUD LVP KIE DEN	14	Build four
Turkey:	Home Bul Ser Gre Tri Tun NAP VEN	10	Build two
		34	

My thanks to Bob Sergeant for riding out a poor position to the bitter end.

Orders to:

John Michalski
Harper Oil Company
904 Hightower Building
Oklahoma City, OK. 73102



from: Conservative Digest August 1978

**PROHIBITION WORKED FINE
LET'S TRY IT WITH GUNS**

C.R.A.P.P.

CLUB TO RIDICULE ABSURD
PROPOSALS & POLITICIANS

3015 PAXSON
MISSOULA, MONT. 59801

Free Ads

FOR SALE: Old Dippines, a boxful (2" high, approx)
mostly Ruuestones and Mixumary Gazettes, \$1⁵⁰ pp
Half dozen or so assorted wargame zines, same price
write editor.

BUDDY TRETICK BERNIE OAKLYN BUDDY OAKLYN BERNIE TRETICK BUDDY BERNIE KILROY

"Oh, no!" Oh, YES!! Here's MORE poop on the Oaklyn/Tretick business, hopefully the last for a while. I've attempted to present both sides as far as I have them at this writing, I hope to add a sheet I don't have yet, an Oaklyn letter to Jim Benes run by Steve McLendon. By now everyone should have been presented enough to make your own decision.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Six entries have come in for a new game, and as soon as a seventh \$12 entry fee arrives, the players will be sent their country assignments for Game LXXVIII. This will be the last new game opened in GRAUSTARK this year.

Take warning - one of the new players will be "Bernie Oaklyn" of Silver Spring, Md. "Oaklyn" has recently found it necessary to send word to Gamesmasters that he is not Buddy Tretick, notorious liar, cheater, and high-binder. However, Rod Walker and several others seem convinced that he is Tretick. I don't care a fart for the problem, but of course an entry that arrived today from Tretick under his own name will not be allowed into this or any other GRAUSTARK game. The hobby has had enough trouble with undependable and underhanded clowns like Tretick and Walker, both of whom seem to believe for some reason that I want to receive mail from them. Their chief benefit to the hobby are their frequent accusations against each other. Though neither of them is notorious for telling the truth, any postal war-gamer is safe if he or she proceeds as if everything Tretick and Walker say about each other is correct.

There probably is a real human being called "Bernie Oaklyn". Walker knows how this ploy works; there is a real "Lenard Lakofka" in Chicago who stands in the same relation to Walker that Oaklyn does to Tretick. They are different people, but the opinions, negotiations, and moves attributed to Lakofka or Oaklyn are most probably Walker's or Tretick's respectively. (I recently met a member of the Eulenspiegel Society who identified Lakofka to me as a prominent transvestite in the Chicago area.) Oaklyn has said that Tretick is likely to answer his phone. Since Tretick's last known address was in Tennessee, you can all have fun figuring out how this works!

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Page 9

SUBJECT: Interstate Commerce Laws

According to the Washington, D.C., office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, further corroborated by the Enforcement Branch of the Department of Commerce:

"It is unlawful to use the United States Postal System to advertise a product for sale using any form of discrimination whatsoever."

and, that:

"It is unlawful to refuse the sale of any product which is sold under the Laws of the Interstate Commerce Act of 1942, as amended, without due process of law."

And, further, agents of both of these Departments, after being told what Postal Diplomacy is, and what it is about, have ruled that the game of Postal Diplomacy falls within the jurisdiction of said Laws of interstate commerce.

What this means, Dear Reader, is, that when Rod Walker refused to allow Bernie Oaklyn as a player in a game of postal Diplomacy, which he is Guest Gamesmaster for under cover (he is always under cover) of Don Horton's gamezine, CLAW AND FANG, he has violated the laws of Interstate Commerce, and upon request, could be prosecuted by the Federal Government (without a cent cost to Bernie Oaklyn).

Dear Editor, won't you please reinstate Bernie Oaklyn in the game, for which the game fee was paid well in advance, and for which he was the first to sign for that game, as confirmed by Don Horton, under the Gamesmastership of Rod Walker, in the gamezine entitled "CLAW AND FANG"?

Yes, Dear Reader. We will contact those responsible to see if they will reverse their decision. If they will not, then we will look to other alternatives.

Thank you, Dear Editor. That, I am sure, is a reasonable course for you to take. At least someone will be doing something about it!

..... Bernie Oaklyn

((The letter above is Oaklyn/Tretick's response to Rod Walker's recent writings, oddly enough tying right in to what Rod had said was Tretick's old style of over-response. The one good thing is that should 'Oaklyn' opt to prod some bureaucrat into writing a nastygram to Rod/Don for 'discriminating' against what is seen as a fraud, perhaps the same bureaucrat will at least be able to verify whether or not Oaklyn exists aside from Tretick. Both Craig Reges and I have proposed checks, as well as Rod Walker in his letter following (preceding?). Rod's reference to the "James Alan thin" refers to a note to him in a recent letter, where I mentioned recalling an old letter from 'Oaklyn' asking to enter a game providing one James Alan could also enter the same one. I declined, but I see they are together in games in AGAINST THE ODDS and WARMONGER. It came up when I was trying to think of someone there in the DC area that might know of both Oaklyn & Tretick, and thought of Alan with a Silver Spring address. It was then that I recalled how that address had first come up.))

J.M.

"alcala"
1273 crest dr.
encinitas ca 92024

To: John Michalski & Craig Reges

Dear John & Craig:

It seems to me that altogether too much time and space is being consumed by the "Oaklyn/Tretick" thing. There must be some quick way to resolve the problem. Craig, if you have positive proof that "Oaklyn" is not Tretick, I'd like to know what it is. I have seen nothing to this point but evidence the other way. I have an open mind on the subject, but I have to go with the evidence.

Re: "Oaklyn" as a suburb of Washington. That's what Conrad von Metzke told me, and since he works for the Post Office, I didn't bother to check it out. Now, I have a pretty good reference collection, including gazetteers and atlases going back to before the Civil War. Sure enough, the only Oaklyn I could locate is in New Jersey. Perhaps Conrad meant Oakland MD, which is a different kettle of fish.

Even so, it is hard to explain all the other things...the same first name, for instance. The fact that Tretick has been cashing checks made out to Oaklyn. The fact that telegrams signed by Oaklyn nonetheless originated with Tretick. The virtually identical style, syntax, usage, grammar, and construction of their writing. A recent letter signed by Oaklyn to Avalon Hill states that he has known me for several years. I'd never heard of Oaklyn until earlier this year. But Tretick's known me for years. There are strong similarities in their handwriting. ~~XX~~

So what proof is there that there is a real "Bernie Oaklyn"? A check imprinted with his name (that's what I've heard thus far)? It is child's play to open a checking account under a pseudonym. I don't know of anything else that's come up, which is why I'm anxious to know what you've found, Craig.

There is one possibility of resolving this. There is a well-known GM & player in the area, Fred Davis. Fred knows, and has met, Tretick. If he's willing to take the time, he might be available to confirm or whatever whether Oaklyn exists. Why don't you ask him if he's willing to arrange something? [And I will predict right now that if Fred is willing, "Oaklyn" won't be, or will turn out to be unavailable. If he is Tretick, he won't risk a meeting with Fred. In any event, quite naturally, ID (such as a driver's license) would be expected.]

Again, however: even if "Oaklyn" is Tretick, I don't see what practical difference it makes. If he is doing a decent job of running his 'zine, it makes little moment who he is. Many people may naturally expect that if Tretick has set up this elaborate charade, he has some ulterior motive in mind. I would guess he merely wants to avoid the unpleasantness of being called out for his previous failings as a GM. If so, that's not succeeded; if anything, it may have gotten worse because of the current deception.

To that extent, then, the question is really academic. I hope

(14 august 1978)

2.

that everyone will keep that in mind; that is, that we aren't generating any sort of bitterness over all this. The issue is a very simple one of fact...and it seems to me that "Oaklyn" himself would be the most concerned with resolving it quickly and simply. Instead he is reacting with rather extreme defensiveness. He's engaged in a couple of personal attacks on people...and this was exactly the way Tretick used to react to criticism. In fact, it appears that "Oaklyn" thinks he is in the middle of a 1960s-style feud, in spite of the fact that he wasn't in the hobby at the time.

I hope we all understand that if "Oaklyn" is Tretick, he's committed no crime, even so. An indiscretion, perhaps, but no crime. His desire to get back into the hobby should be respected and, with the caveat that his past record is shaky, encouraged. There is no question that he is a generally competent GM, and his game reports are certainly easy to read, which is a blessing in itself. As I've said before, nobody has ever reproached Tretick as a player. Not only was he reliable and organized, he was considered pretty good. He had an annoying tendency to flaunt an assumed expertise in his 'zine, but having an ego trip is no great horrible thing.

To sum up: I believe the hobby has a right to know the truth in this matter, but I hope everyone will realize it's not a life-and-death matter. Above all, there is no reason for anyone to be personally abusive toward Bernie, or Buddy, or whomever we're dealing with.

About "Changing of the Guard". It is not the same as the Coastal Crawl (or "Creep"?...I've not heard that before). The CC involves exchanges only between Mid/Spa and Con/Bul. It was legal under the pre-1971 Rulebooks, partly because there was a loophole in the text and partly because Calhoun deliberately put the loophole there. He had second thoughts, largely because I uncovered a number of corollary situations (retreats and the like), so he decided to close the loophole in the 1971 rewrite.

"Changing of the Guard" was first proposed by me as a joke, a satire on some of the nippicking "rule interpretations" appearing in the hobby in the late 1960s. It was strictly illegal under all Rulebooks, including the present one. It would allow an army and a fleet in adjacent coastal provinces to exchange positions (e.g., A Hol-Bel, F Bel-Hol). Buddy picked up on it, and took it seriously! The Miller Number Custodian has long since determined that games using these rulings are variants. The Boardman Number Custodian considers them "irregular". Every Ratings-master known to me would exclude any such game from his rating system.

John: The "James Alan/Bernie Oaklyn" thing sounds bad. Tretick is known to have played in his own games and use ~~xxx~~ Chris and James Tretick as proxies in others. I am frankly disturbed by the report that they are insisting on joining games only together. I suggest you contact the current BNC (who is now Dennis Agosta, I guess) with that info. The results of all games in which they are both playing should be watched.

FINAL NOTE: Craig, I believe you carry variants. I am now Acting Custodian of NAVB. Fred Davis is Custodian, NAVB-East. Dick Vedder is Custodian, NAVB-West. The Bank will be offering standard editions of a number of variants.

Our first ~~xxx~~ "active file" game is just now available: The Youngstown Variant. The set consists of 10 pp. of rules and 10 papsheets. It includes YV II, IV-X, Ushindi, and a new version (which I designed in honor of the YV's 10th Anniversary), Y.V. XII. The cost is 10¢ per sheet plus 50¢ handling (\$2.50) for a complete xerox copy. Interested persons can write me, Fred, or Dick. (Y.V. XII is for 12 players, natch!) *Rod*

JOHN BOARDMAN

20 August 1978

Brutus Bulletin #18 arrived just as I was preparing Graustark #385, which went into the mail yesterday. A copy recommending your 'zine should have reached you by now.

Congratulations on your win in Bob Lipton's recently published poll. Bob was here yesterday to collate the latest issues of Mixumaxu Gazette and Graustark, and also for a game of Chaosium's new "King Arthur's Knights", and an experimental symposium on the relative merits of American, Czech, and Austrian beers.

Your poll win is probably related to the opinions which dominate Brutus Bulletin, and are in large part a measure of the popularity of those opinions. I realize, of course, that it is necessary to stimulate in the public a concern for militancy, and a belief that America's weapons systems need further expansion. It is necessary that these things be widely believed, since they are vital to the health of the American economy. Besides, look what happens to the people who don't believe them!

Still, if you take a look at the "For Your Eyes Only" column of Strategy & Tactics, you will find that the actual state of US weapons systems do not merit this concern. SPI's staff keeps a close eye on the actual US & other governments' armaments and public statements, and I consider their summaries to be more accurate than the speeches made by some politician out to prove a point.

For example, President Carter is in an excellent position to know what the US needs in the way of nuclear powered ships. Rather than a fifth nuclear powered aircraft carrier, the money could better be spent on a large number of small, fast modern gunboats. These would be far more useful in some brushfire crisis involving naval forces in, say, Panama, Angola, or the Philippines. The same relative comparison can be made in the air, comparing the B-1 bomber with the Cruise Missile.

Since World War II the United States has had seven Presidents from both parties and all regions of the country, with widely varying personal styles. Yet each one has promoted the world-wide system of military alliances - and not only promoted it, but expanded it. Who would have believed, ten years ago, that China would be manning the front lines in Central Asia for us against the USSR, or that the Syrian army would be enforcing US policy against Palestinian refugee encampments? Russia is scared - look at the way it is currently fulminating about Premier Hua's visit to the eastern European countries.

Under these circumstances I feel that it is unfair of you to attack my views in "Imperial Diary" as you do. (Unless of course it is to keep the proper warlike spirit alive in your readers. In that case, go right ahead.) I should like it recognized that I am just as much in favor of war, and against peace, as you are. If the US is backing China (see President Nixon's Shanghai Statement) and China is backing Cambodia (look at the recent tension between China and Vietnam) then in effect Cambodia is doing our work against Vietnam. We have used equally unsavory tools before. That is the advantage of being an Empire. You can do what you please and nobody can do anything about it. Arturo Guajardo's letter shows this. You don't bother debating with your opponents. You simply abuse them and drive off. Or, as in this country, you can beat them up or kill them. Since this is done in the interests of America and its military ~~power~~, it is Right.

As for the ancient world, you cite a war between a loose, democratic (except for the slaves) country like Athens, and a tightly organized military aristocratic state like Sparta. Let me remind you who won that war. And after Sparta's victory they installed a similar oligarchy in Athens. Of course after they went home, the oligarchy was overthrown, and one of its supporters, a certain Socrates, was executed. The US doesn't make that mistake. Where we go, we stay. Who would have thought in 1953 that 25 years later there would still be US troops in Korea?

In one of your comments, you make the mistake of stating that the US "lost" the war against Vietnam. This is technically incorrect. A war can be said to be "lost" only when it is over. And I have seen no evidence that the war against Vietnam is over. Vietnam, at least, is still fighting, and they are fighting a puppet of our puppet. Furthermore, look at the public statements of almost every major American political figure, liberal or conservative, during the active phase of the war. (For example, Robert F. Kennedy in Saigon in 1962: "We are going to win in Vietnam. We will remain here until we do win.") If you say that the US involvement with Vietnam is over, you are calling ~~these~~ men liars. And calling top political figures "liars" is not healthy in this country, as I am sure any surviving members of SDS could tell you.

As for Andrew Young - it is merely a measure of US contempt for the UN that we have sent him there. The chief purpose of Young, as with Vance, Warnke, and Tyson, is to be fired. At some future international crisis, these men will go out, and in will come Brzezinski, Moynihan, Witske, Haig, and maybe even Kissinger. The President will say something like "We have extended the hand of peace, and it has been rejected. Now we shall, regretfully but firmly, take a more forceful stand. I have directed the Secretary of Defense to send 50,000 American troops to...."

Remember, this is the man who, as Governor of Georgia, declared a day in honor of William L. Calley. He's not the sort of person you can fool around with.

And I beg of you to take me seriously for this reason. On the day that those 50,000 troops are sent, it is not going to be very comfortable for Pacifists in this country, and I do not want to be considered one, now or then. Many high public officials have said that, last time, the government went too easy on its opponents. It will obviously be unpleasant to be measured among those opponents, next time.

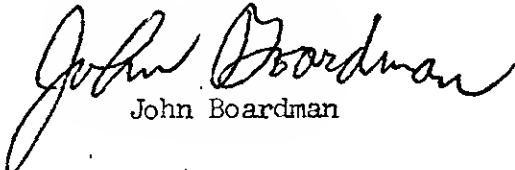
Even the Pacifists realize this. In 1976 the Council of Foreign Relations, a body which gave firm support to the war with Vietnam, published a book entitled The Legacy of Vietnam. (Anthony Lake, editor; NYU Press) One of the essays in this book was written by the Pacifist leader Sam Brown, and he concisely entitled it "The Defeat of the Anti-War Movement". "There is little reason," he wrote, "to believe that mass dissent could be readily organized if we did enter a comparable situation."

Well, three years before Brown wrote these words I came to the conclusion that one lost cause in a lifetime is enough. What Brown calls "a comparable situation" may break out any day, and when that happens I am going to make very certain that I do not get into the trouble which is obviously coming for people who think, in defiance of the orders of the US government, that peace is better than war.

So, I beg of you, please respect my convictions on this matter. There are no essential points of difference between my views in "Imperial Diary" and yours in Brutus Bulletin. Both of us believe that peace is the greatest evil that could happen to the United States of America. Both of us believe that America should keep and expand its military power, and its dominion over the subject allies. Both of us oppose the pacifistic ideology displayed by the Maoist handbill you reprinted in the last issue, and would support the suppression of such opinion. In this juncture of opinion, we can neglect our relatively unimportant differences over "Proposition 13" or federal health insurance.

(California, of course, will do as it pleases, but New York City needs a "Proposition 13" like the Titanic needed ice-cubes.)

Sincerely yours,


John Boardman

Some interesting odds & ends, this page and reverse-

Sour notes from the intelligence world

In Canada, the prime minister Mr. Trudeau has brought an indictment against a journalist under the Official Secrets Act, which is accurately described by an attorney as making it a criminal offense to publish a classified document revealing how many cups of tea the average Canadian drinks.

Much of Canada is up in arms over the indictment of the Toronto Sun's Peter Worthington, the first newspaperman in Canadian history to be had up under that vague and ominous act.

"There is no question in anybody's mind," wrote the editor of the Edmonton Journal, "that the decision to prosecute the Sun was based on a vindictive, presumably following the old John F. Kennedy dictum, 'don't get mad — get even.' You see, Worthington and his paper are irreverent critics of Trudeau, and the gentleman does not suffer criticism gladly.

What triggered the episode was a statement by Trudeau in parliament to the effect that although it may be true that the KGB is an enemy of Canada, it is not true that the Soviet Union is an enemy of Canada. That is on the order of saying that a mugger's right arm should be prosecuted, but not the mugger. Trudeau expanded by saying that presumably there were CIA agents operating in Canada, but the United States is not an enemy of Canada. Right on. Neither is the CIA an enemy of Canada. It is not engaged in stealing Canadian secrets, encouraging Canadian separatism or — a mistake, perhaps — disparaging Pierre Trudeau.

But notwithstanding Peter Worthington's victimization the proceeded to publish an account of KGB activity in Canada) he favors an Official Secrets Act of some

sort, believing that any government is crazy that does not take steps to protect its genuinely secret information.

Which brings us to the case of Mr. Philip Agee. He is a former CIA operative, described in London's Daily Telegraph by its Washington reporter as — quoting an unnamed CIA counterintelligence officer — "probably the worst traitor since Kim Philby."

Philip Agee was recently in Havana, kissing Communist posteriors, and it was there that he announced a publication to be called Covert Action. The principal feature will be a monthly revelation of the names of CIA agents around the world, plus a guide to the means of detecting them. Having exposed them, Agee assures his readers, they will be rendered ineffective and probably have to leave. If they decline to leave — the host country will take matters into their own hands. As was done two years ago in Athens when, after his name was given out, Richard Welch, CIA agent, was assassinated.

Senator Barry Goldwater has suggested it would be appropriate to take steps to revoke Agee's American citizenship, and Senator Lloyd Bentsen has said, "I believe that anyone who so recklessly threatens the safety of our agents should face the prospect of jail."

One would think these to be normal reactions in a country that is incidentally charged by history with containing the barbarians. More likely, Philip Agee will receive a Pulitzer Prize. Because the mood of the country, respecting the counterintelligence function is — ambivalent, to say the least.

At Harvard, President Derek Bok has taken the position that the CIA's recruiting must be done openly. It has been the

practice of the agency to do its recruitment silently, through individual professors, discreet contacts and the like. Ona gathers from President Bok that Harvard students who desire to work in counterintelligence should negotiate with CIA representatives in a public booth in the middle of Harvard Yard. Perhaps it would be prudent to suggest that they be tattooed, so that no one, anywhere, should ever be free to say that Harvard University contributed, however passively, to the defense of the United States.

Meanwhile, we have it all from a man who suffered a great deal for his country. John Downey was freshly graduated from Yale University when, as a CIA filer, he was shot down over China and spent 23 years in Chinese jails, from which he was finally sprung by Nixon in the heyday of pingpong diplomacy. John Downey, who hadn't seen a newspaper or an American face for a generation, returned to Connecticut and began to study law. Now he is running for political office — for lieutenant governor of Connecticut. He is not bitter about his experience. He is remorseful on other grounds. About what happened to him, he says: "I knew what I was getting into. They told me what would happen if I ever got caught. If I blamed anyone it was myself." Why? "for being so dumb as to volunteer."

Was that really dumb? Yes, because the world looked different in 1951, Downey goes on. "There was a great deal of romanticism about what we were going to do. Basically, we all were highly motivated. We thought the United States had its back against the wall, and we were going to save the free world."

Now Downey knows that is all bunk.

Navy Complains About Cuts in Ships, Marines

By Bernard Weinraub
Special to The Washington Star

The Navy, in a secret memorandum to Defense Secretary Harold Brown, says current Defense Department budget plans would virtually cripple the modernization of the Marine Corps and lead to major shipbuilding cuts threatening to tip the naval balance to the Soviet Union by the 1980s.

The five-page memorandum by Secretary of Navy Graham Claytor Jr., dated May 23, makes it plain the Navy hierarchy is increasingly anxious about budget plans for fiscal years 1980-84.

"Our program provides an average of only 13 ships per year," said Claytor. "This is not an immediate

problem," he added, "but unless immediate action is taken . . . to increase the rate of shipbuilding, the Navy we pass to our successors will be smaller and less capable. This is a legacy I do not want to leave, and, at some point we dare not leave it."

The document, obtained yesterday, was designed to accompany the Navy's Program Objective Memorandum for 1980 to 1984. The so-called POM-80 is an examination of programs and goals in response to financial "guidance" by Brown and his staff.

THE PROGRAMS, under these constraints, "will provide maritime forces marginally superior to those of the Soviets into the early 1980s."

Claytor said, "But some trends — particularly in ship construction — are unfavorable and there is cause for concern that the balance will tip to the Soviets unless those trends are reversed."

Perhaps the major surprise in the document are plans to seriously cut back modernization programs for the Marine Corps. The document says that in key reductions, planned to meet the financial guidance, the Navy will sharply curtail military construction programs and order "cancellation or delay of virtually all Marine Corps new-start modernization programs."

Defense sources said these programs — involving the purchase of

combat vehicles, armored personnel carriers and possibly tanks — were designed to begin an overhaul of the troubled Marine Corps, whose "over-the-beach" assault mission is viewed by military critics as outdated in modern warfare and a relic of another era.

Without the purchase of sizable numbers of vehicles to enhance the mobility and firepower of the Marines, Defense sources say, the role and even existence of the Marine Corps is left in some doubt.

Claytor, in his memo, also spoke somewhat gloomily about the Navy's ability to recruit enough men and women by the mid-80s to maintain its strength.

Worldwide Effort Being Launched to 'Destabilize' CIA

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

Perched just below Dupont Circle is the apparently temporary headquarters of a new international campaign, to "destabilize" the Central Intelligence Agency.

The anti-CIA announcements are being made in Havana, but the vehicle is a magazine being put together by former CIA officer Philip Agee, "the agency's No. 1 nemesis," and a number of colleagues bent on "exposing CIA personnel and operations whenever and wherever we find them."

The new publication, which is expected to appear roughly six times a year, is called the Covert Action Information Bulletin, and its tone is uncompromising. Urging a worldwide effort to print the names of anyone who works abroad for the CIA, Agee asks readers of the premier issue not to stop there. Once the name has been made public, he recommends: "Kill him."

Then organize public demonstrations against those named—both at the American embassy and at their homes—and, where possible, bring pressure on the government to throw them out. "If you refuse to do the job," Agee says, "then don't, those who the CIA has most oppressed will find other ways of fighting back."

Agee concludes: "We can all aid this struggle, together with the struggle for socialism in the United States itself."

"This thing is incredible . . . unbelievable," exclaimed CIA spokesman Herbert Hottel. "The motivation of these people has got to be more than the \$5 a year tickle off at the CIA."

"This goes beyond whistle-blowing," Hottel added of the magazine. "While blowing is supposed to be protected, this is wrongdoing. These people are operating under the overall pretext that everything we do is wrong."

Expelled from Britain and a succession of other Western European countries over the past 10 years, Agee is reportedly living in Rome, Italy. His magazine is being published here by C. I. News Inc., a nonprofit corporation set up in District of Columbia on Dec. 22.

The incorporators, directors and officers are: Nam H. Schaap, a lawyer and editor in a newsletter called the Military Law Reporter; Ray, a colleague of Schaap on various projects; and Louis Wolf, coeditor with Agee of a new book entitled "Dirty Work: The CIA in Europe."

It is designed partly as a how-to-doll book, "a breaking the cover of thousands of CIA agents around the world."

The headquarters of C. I. Publications Inc. is given in the incorporation papers as a sixth-floor suite in the Dupont Circle Building at 1348 Connecticut Ave. NW, which houses the Public Law Education Institute.

The Institute's president, Thomas P. Alder, told reporter yesterday he had not been given a copy of the magazine and he would put a stop to it. The Institute publishes the Military Law Reporter. Schaap edits it.

The financing for the new undertaking was unclear. Alder said Schaap, Agee and all the others who could answer such questions were still in Havana, where they have been taking part in an anti-CIA tribunal that began last week as part of the international Youth Festival.

In announcing the plans there, Agee and Schaap have said they hope to establish a worldwide network of "researchers" who will keep CIA officials under close scrutiny and forward their names to the Covert Action Information Bulletin for publication. Others associated with Agee in the so-called "CIA Watch" are James and Elsie Whitford, former CIA finance and support personnel who are also taking part in the Havana festival.

In a joint statement in the first (July 1978) issue of Covert Action entitled "Who We Are," Agee and the others describe the magazine as a successor to Counter-Spy, which went out of business a year and a half ago.

Counter-Spy folded after a welter of controversy over the 1975 assassination in Athens of CIA station chief Richard S. Welch. The magazine had earlier listed Welch's name as a CIA official stationed in Peru.

Unlike Counter-Spy, Agee and the others said the first issue of Covert Action, "We are confident that there will be sufficient subscribers to make publication a permanent weapon in the fight against the CIA, the FBI, military intelligence and all other instruments of U.S. imperialist oppression throughout the world."

According to John H. Rees, editor of a conservative newsletter called Information Digest and a long-time correspondent for the Review of the New Society, Schaap is a member of the National Lawyers Guild, and, with Ray, served on the Counter-Spy magazine's advisory board. The two also participated together in the National Lawyers Guild's Southeast Asia Military Law Project and served as the guild's observers in February 1977 at Rader-Melnhof trials in Stammheim. Rees reported in Information Digest's latest issue.

Several hundred copies of Covert Action were reportedly sent from Washington, and more were distributed free in Havana.

((Contributions on this page and next are courtesy of Ron Kelly. Even I hadn't kept up on the carrier situation; (see reverse); maybe I'd better write someone about it. I'd like to dedicate these pieces to John Boardman and all the pacifists of the world.))

J. M.

The carrier question

There are whispers here and there that President Carter's decision to veto the defense procurement authorization bill was an exercise in pure Rofshoonery — that is, a flexing of presidential muscle for cosmetic purposes.

Lacking clear evidence of Rofshoonery (or, for that matter, of political Schwarzenegger) it is our disposition to discount Machiavellian theories of presidential behavior. We do find it a bit odd, however, that some watchdogs are happy to lie doggo on this one — on the theory that even if Mr. Carter is being foxy he's "right" about the procurement issues.

In what does this rightness consist? In Mr. Carter's reversal of an overwhelming congressional consensus that if the U.S. means to build another big aircraft carrier it should be nuclear rather than oil-burning? Mr. Carter emphasized that explanation. It is a loose peg to hang a heavy veto on.

In fact, given the decision for another big carrier, the weight of informed opinion — by no means limited to apostles of gunboat diplomacy — is that it should be nuclear. And for many reasons.

There is, to begin with, no persuasive evidence that an oil-burning carrier would be cheaper — or, in any event, so much cheaper as to outweigh the arguments for building nuclear. The usual figures put the cost of a conventional carrier at about \$1.5 billion, and of a nuclear carrier at just over \$2 billion. But there is no existing prototype for the conventional carrier; and with its laying down delayed for another inflation-wracked year or two at least the costs of research and design could bring its pricetag within the range of a nuclear carrier. The latter could be copied to the last elevator cable from existing Nimitz-class carriers.

Even if that were not so — even if a significant saving could be assumed — the inferiority of the conventional carrier's fighting capacity would make the saving dubious. A nuclear carrier would carry 50 per cent more aircraft, almost three times the amount of aviation fuel, twice the aircraft munitions and double the accessories (catapults, elevators, etc.) of the conventional carrier. It would also go faster and wear far stouter armor.

Every study we know of on the nuclear-vs.-conventional question (including a Ford-era National Security Council study) has accordingly

come down decisively for a nuclear carrier.

Then, there is the vital issue of range and vulnerability. A knowledgeable Navy engineer, who shall remain nameless here, asks: "How stupid can you get — to build a conventional carrier that would run for four or five days on somebody else's oil when you could build a nuclear carrier that would run for 13 years without refueling?"

A good question. Nuclear propulsion, as John Lehman observes in *Aircraft Carriers: The Real Choices*, "is especially important when operating, for example, in the Indian Ocean, 5,000 miles from base, where the interdiction of tanker support could leave a conventional carrier stranded, having run out of fuel 3,000 miles from home."

The Indian Ocean? The mention of that distant but strategic main probably offers a clue to aircraft carrier politics. There are influences within the administration — and in Congress — who consider it a service to safety to get the U.S. off the aircraft carrier patrol (especially in the Indian Ocean), on the theory that a far-flung U.S. naval presence is not a stabilizing force but a liability and threat. There is no obvious answer to this essentially isolationist argument — except the decisive one: Isolationism has failed in every outing as a war-avoidance policy in this century.

Should Congress, then, override the president's veto? Could it do so, given the customary presumption in favor of presidential judgments in major defense matters? A president's ability to work his will on a paramount issue of procurement can't be underestimated. President Carter was doubtless aware of that when he chose the carrier battleground to test his mastery. And even if Congress overrides, Mr. Carter would not be powerless to extract some accommodation of his terms.

So the best solution, as it strikes us, is a search for reasonable compromise. There might be a meeting of minds to postpone any carrier appropriation for another fiscal year, when the president appears to want it. In exchange, the president might be prevailed upon to accept the overwhelming consensus in Congress and among naval experts that the nuclear carrier is the better buy.

Failing that, Congress must accept the challenge and vote to override the veto.

The Carrier Veto: 'Retrenchment, Retreat'

President Carter was believable when he said that some of his advisers favored building the large nuclear aircraft carrier, authorization for which he has vetoed. So narrow is the range of views represented among the advisers who matter, it is believable that not one favors the carrier that Congress favors.

The Navy generally, and carriers especially, have often generated ideological opposition. Thomas Jefferson inveighed against "the ruinous folly of a navy," and there always are Americans who regard a "blue water navy" as an incitement to American mischief. The Carter administration's special savor derives, in part, from people whose suspicion of American power translates into dislike of carriers as symbols of the provocative forward deployment of U.S. power, and as impediments to a policy of retreat and retrenchment.

This suspicion dovetails with another recurring theme of American history — interservice rivalry. This dovetailing is illustrated by the fact that the only senators on the Armed Services Committee who opposed the carrier were John Culver (D-Iowa), a McGovernite, and Barry Goldwater, (Maj. Gen., U.S. Air Force, ret.), who is old and fierce enough to remember and continue the Air Force's rivalry with the Navy.

In 1945 there were 102 carriers, and for a while carriers handled the main strike force targeted against the Soviets. The Air Force wanted that mission and won it with the help of President Truman's Secretary of Defense, Louis Johnson, who cut the Navy to seven carriers and provoked "the admirals' revolt."

Today, arguments couched in the language of national retrenchment and retreat will not persuade the public. It already is uneasy about administration opposition to development of the B1 bomber and deployment of neutron weapons, and is convinced that interservice rivalry often injures the national interest.

Perhaps that is why Carter falsely implied that Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) did not object to the veto. Next, Carter artfully manipulated numbers to suggest, falsely, that the bill he vetoed makes serious cuts in other defense programs in order to finance the carrier.

Others have elaborated an argument against big carriers generally. That argument — that carriers are of declining significance and large carriers are un-

acceptably vulnerable — is, in part, the "retrenchment" and "interservice rivalry" arguments carried on by C. means.

Exhaustive studies demonstrate that large carriers are more survivable than the smaller carriers the administration favors, and that because of new defense technologies, large carriers will become even more capable of fighting in areas of highest Soviet capability.

The utility of carriers was underscored when the United States lost all Korean bases in the first five days of that war. And Henry Kissinger says: "In the crisis in which I was involved, the use of naval power — particularly carrier power — turned out to be almost invariably the crucial element. As the number of our bases around the world is diminishing, the capacity to move our power quickly and without political inhibitions, to signal our determination, is most frequently represented by naval ships."

Some McGovernite opponents of carriers find such a mission for carriers inherently repugnant. And some representatives of rival services favor a diminished Navy, the primary mission of which would be to keep the North Atlantic open in the event the Air Force and the Army must fight a central-front war in Europe.

Carter's veto was especially peculiar because, he favors building another conventional carrier that would be about as expensive, over time, as a nuclear carrier. Clearly, Carter is eager to veto something, anything, to seem authoritative. But it is not easy to seem authoritative while also seeming to receive attentiveness training from an advertising man. Gerald Rofshoon, curator of the Carter image, was reportedly pleased by the veto. His pleasure is not thought to have been rooted in reflections about the Navy's needs.

Each time the administration opposes a major defense undertaking, it advances a different technical argument. But the arguments have a common consequence: guaranteeing that whoever is president in 1988 will be less favorably equipped than Carter is with military options for countering the Soviets. And the different arguments are so compatible with a single ideology of retrenchment that they seem, at least in part, like rationalizations designed to hide the ideology from an unsympathetic public.

((Items on this page contributed by Ron Kelly))

Critical Portrait of Vietnam Life Painted by Refugees in Paris

By William Dowell
Times Life News Service

PARIS — The U.S. congressional delegation just back from Vietnam saw and heard much of the bright side of that country. A darker picture is painted by the Vietnamese who have fled their homeland since the "liberation."

Nowhere is there a larger colony of Vietnamese than in France. Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese came here before Saigon's fall, and the French government does not know how many are actually here now because many held French citizenship and are bureaucratically indistinguishable from ordinary French citizens.

Between April 1975 and August 1978, an estimated 50,000 Indochinese refugees have entered France. About 40,000 came in legally. Another 10,000 slipped across the border from neighboring countries. About 20 percent of the refugees are Vietnamese.

Refugees continue to arrive in France at the rate of about 1,000 a month. Half of these are Vietnamese, and have managed to leave either by boat or with legal visas, usually after paying a heavy bribe. The refugees have been chosen by French officials from refugee camps in Thailand and include Cambodians as well as Laotians.

THE PICTURE the refugees paint is universally grim. They describe a serious shortage of food, universal corruption and arbitrary arrest.

Last May, Doan Van Toai, a former student leader who had been imprisoned by President Nguyen Van Thieu, and then later by the Communists, managed to leave Vietnam with a French passport after bribing authorities.

Toai smuggled out a petition that had circulated through Saigon prisons and had been signed by 49 notable Vietnamese currently in jail.

The prisoners include a number of former Viet Cong leaders: Nguyen Van Hieu (alias Mui Huong) who helped lead the assault on Saigon during the 1968 Tet offensive; Hai Chien Thang, who had been commander in chief of the Viet Cong in the Saigon-Gia Dinh area; Nguyen Huu Giao, a lawyer who in 1964 had led the Hue student union and personally organized the burning of the American Information Center in Hue.

A number of the prisoners are quite elderly. Toai claimed. Te Nguyen Minh, for instance, is 80 and is being held in Le Van Duyet prison outside Saigon. Minh was imprisoned 15 times by the French and was a personal companion of Ho Chi Minh for 14 years.

ANOTHER PRISONER, Nguyen Vaa Theng, also 80, was imprisoned four times by the French and was a leading figure in Vietnam's fight for independence. He was last heard of in Tran Hung Dao prison.

Arrests frequently seem arbitrary. Nguyen Van Dung, 18, was taken in August 1977 for swimming to the Saigon River. He was accused of trying to escape, even though he normally swam in the river at the same time every day. Eight members of Dung's family were also arrested for complicity in the possible future escape attempt. The family dog was shot.

Refugees here estimate that about 800,000 people are currently political prisoners in Vietnam. About half of them are in re-education camps.

The glut of prisoners has stretched facilities. The old Buddhist orphanage at Long Thuan near Bien Hoa has been turned into a concentration camp. Chi Hoa prison in Saigon, which was jammed with 8,000 prisoners under the Thieu regime, now holds 40,000 people.

SOME OF THE newer prison facilities put the old "tiger cages" of Con Son island to shame, claim the refugees. Zones C-1, C-2 and B of Le Van Duyet prison at Ba Chieu market in Gia Dinh just north of Saigon, for instance, has newly constructed cells, 15 feet wide by 24 feet long, holding 30 to 40 prisoners each.

The cells have no water or light and only a small ventilation hole 10 by 15 centimeters. The ceiling is corrugated iron, which under the sun turns the interior of the cell into an oven. Prisoners who are being punished are put into cells that are six feet by two feet, also with no water or light and only a small ventilation hole.

According to the refugees, life is not particularly pleasant outside prison either. Vo Van Viet, 28, who was a doctor in Hue, escaped about two months ago in a 30-foot fishing boat with 91 others. A freighter heading for India rescued them after seven days at sea.

Viet says that South Vietnamese civil servants, doctors and teachers, as well as laborers are paid about 60 dong, or plasters, a month. Vietnamese Communist officials are paid about 120 to 200 dong. Two pounds of meat cost about 20 dong, or a third month's salary, on the black market.

The situation is more serious, Viet says, because the Communists eliminated people's savings by forcing them to exchange their currency in 1975 and again last April.

AFTER DECLARING how much cash they had on hand, people were told that they could only receive 200 dong per person. "Even if you want to be honest, you have to be corrupt now just to live. People sell everything they own just to get enough food to eat. The only people who have any money are the Communist cadres from the north and the Russians, so they are buying everything."

Viet says the corruption led to some gruesome situations in the Hue central hospital where he worked. "It's important to a Vietnamese that a body be buried intact," says Viet. "What happens now is that the hospital manager will tell a husband whose wife has just died that he will have to pay money under the table if he does not want her body to be mutilated during the autopsy."

The corruption also extends to the "re-education" centers. "You are approached by a Communist cadre," Viet says, and told that a missing relative is in a camp. If you seem agreeable, you are taken to his superior office. The price to get someone out starts at five taels (32 grams) of gold.

Worst, says Viet, is that the Communist regime seems arbitrary in who it attacks: "You can't sleep at night. You never know what they are going to decide to arrest you for. You can never tell the truth. Everything is a lie. You always feel tense and nervous. You never know who will betray you. It is no way to live."

PETER KELTCH

P O Box 186 Cherokee, OK 73728

I thought you might be interested in the enclosed chart since 1) you are a "conservative" and 2) you are an accountant. My partner's wife is a public accountant and works for us in the tax field. She showed me this the other day. Although it is about two years old, I haven't heard of any startling reductions in the English tax rate. In fact, on "Firing Line" a short time ago, Mr. F. Buckley was interviewing the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the high tax rates were mentioned and the Labour Party has been in power continuously since the date on this chart. Also, I'm not sure of their definition of "taxable income" but I think it is broader than ours.

This chart explains graphically (no pun intended) why many people are fearful of following the British "Welfare State" example, i.e., National Health Insurance, government control of basic industries with subsidies usually following, etc.

First, you must remember that the average American has a higher income than the average Briton. When I was in England last year, the exchange rate was about that used on the chart, or \$1.77 per pound. I understood that a young Civil Servant I met, a college graduate, made about \$5,000.00, and there wasn't a lot of difference in prices for food, etc. Thus they start off behind us before taxes.

If you work through the chart you will find that the total income through the 40% bracket is equivalent to \$17,700.00, and the total tax on that is \$7,920.75, or 44.75% of the total. If you glance at the 1976 U.S. tax table you will find that the tax on \$17,700.00, on a joint return is \$3,743.00, about 21% of the total. The Englishman thus is paying Twice the tax we do on what we consider a median income, but which is in fact a high income for them.

If you work on through the chart you find that the 83% bracket starts in at incomes above \$35,400.00. The total tax on that amount (the last part being only in the 75% bracket) is \$20,576.25, while glancing at the tax table in the U.S. for '76 we find the tax on \$35,400.00, joint return, is \$10,088.00, again less than half the British rate. (the last 34% dollars was in the 42% bracket.) Finally, I should point out that the U.S. reaches a plateau on earned income of 50%, while the chart from England is earned income. Unearned income in England is taxed at higher rates. On the "Firing Line" show mentioned above, the statement was made that you could get into a 98% (gasp!) bracket on unearned income, e.i., interest, dividends from rusty old oil companies, etc. The top income tax bracket in our law is 70%, and it starts in above \$200,000.00., unearned income.

I personally think our own tax rates are too high and ought to be cut, ala the Kemp-Roth Bill about 33% in all brackets. But the point I am making is that the next time someone starts talking about another program, think what it costs. Do we really want to pay for it? And I don't just mean as individuals. If such rates are in effect, only a fool & a naive that incentive is stifled. As a crude example, consider a hypothetical executive making the \$35,400.00 mentioned above. Let's say he could get a raise or a bonus if he came up with a method to cut costs, but there is a chance he could make a mistake and get in trouble. If he only gets to keep 17% of any raise or bonus, why is he going to take a chance and maybe lose status in the company? Why bother to rock the boat? It's even worse with an investor. Say I'm so rich I have a \$1,000,000.00 income from investments. If I increase my income, I get to keep 2% of the increase. Say a fellow comes along with a new risky venture, say solar energy,

and wants me to invest some of my fortune in his venture. Remembering that we are in the 98% bracket, if the investment succeeds, we can keep \$2,000.00 for every \$100,000.00 we increase our income. On the other hand the business might fail, we could lose all our capital, and after all, 2% of something is more than 2% of nothing. Would you take your money out of oil stocks and invest in the new solar energy company?

In other words the "English Disease" is the stifling of innovation, risk taking, and progress. Venture or risk capital dries up. Managers become super cautious. And ordinary working people develop an attitude of "I'm alright, Jack" because there just isn't any reason to work harder. "Brain Drain"? You bet. You'd leave too if you had a universal skill, such as medicine, engineering, musician, manager, etc., etc. In the present circumstances we don't seem able to cut our already too high taxes. But we must stop any increase in government spending with a resultant rise in taxes or we will be heading for disaster!

(We're supposed to get a slight income tax cut this year, but it's already been cancelled out for middle brackets by the increase in Social Security Brackets. As long as inflation goes on everyone is getting a tax increase without a change in the brackets. The cost of living increase an ordinary employee

Peter H. Kelch light get (I wish I had such a contract!) doesn't keep him even: it puts him in a higher bracket and he loses ground.

And the Social Security taxes? For higher income brackets the increase will be really steep. And Secretary Califano suggested that "rich" retired people might ought to stop getting their Social Security "free" of income tax. He forgot to mention that the money paid into Social Security tax was included in their gross income when they earned it, in other words they have already paid income tax on that money, but what can you expect from our present administration, otherwise known as "The Ainsleys and Andy show."

pamphlet prepared for British Information Services, "Even if | the hell should you put out some

RATES OF BRITISH TAXATION (With the pound valued at \$1.77)

Rate of Tax

The first £4500 (\$7965) of taxable income is charged to income tax at the basic rate of 35%. The excess over £4500 is charged at the following rates:

	Per cent
The first £500 (\$885) (i.e., £4500-£5000 or \$7965-\$8850)	40
The next £1000 (\$1770)	45
The next £1000	50
The next £1000	55
The next £2000 (\$3540)	60
The next £2000	65
The next £3000 (\$5310)	70
The next £5000 (\$8850)	75
The remainder	83

he has no accommodation available, he will be regarded as resident if he visits Britain regularly for substantial periods . . . an average of three months a year is regarded as substantial."

In the case of British pop stars who tour overseas while retaining British residency, there is no tax charge if they remain overseas for a continuous period of 365 days. If they're away less than a full year, however, they're

thing and come out of it with tuppence?" Last year, while Plant was hospitalized and in a cast following a car crash in Greece, he had to be lifted out of his hospital bed and flown out of the country to maintain his status as a tax exile.

"It was impossible to stay in England," says Bill Wyman, who left in 1971 and, along with Charlie Watts, now lives in Switzerland. "I don't earn

six I could live somewhere else. I don't really. It would be nice to have a permanent base. It used to be London, but I don't have that anymore. I can't live in England, not unless I want to change my style."

John Lennon and Ringo Starr are tax exiles, too. Starr's recent signing with Atlantic Records took place in Holland because his U.S. visa had expired and he wanted to stay out of England. Leon Wildes, Lennon's attorney, says that although Lennon "doesn't feel he's giving up his allegiance to England," he is nonetheless "an American for tax purposes."

Rod Stewart, who flew British press people to Ireland for a preview of his *Atlantic Crossing* LP, says that "Los Angeles is where I want to live for the time being. Permanently? I doubt it. I really miss England. It's my fucking home, after all. I guess I'll go back there."

David Bowie lives in the U.S. now but not, he claims, for tax purposes: "I love America. I haven't quite settled here. . . . I

Reply to Keltch

((It brings up some good points. Primary to me is the attitude it induces in people. It's the everyone-agovernment-employee attitude of everyone just show up more often than not and "I'll get by, Jack". Russia at least sets a minimum standard to which everyone must work, and like all such controls, the minimum instantly becomes the maximum which anyone will do. Not only is there no incentive, there is positive disincentive not to do anything. It reminds me of my stint with the Post Office...

On the investment side, you may be missing something, for the small reward is a two-edged sword. Any LOSS the venture suffers would be absorbed mostly by the government too, so as long as you're not putting your whole stake into a venture, and few are that dumb. They could even loan money to a Teamster pension fund project or equally shady and hopeless investment based on whim or kickback and never notice the difference, if 98% of the profit or LOSS in this case comes out of Uncle's take.

Another considerable influence is the push to extravagant salaries for the top people (who write their own ticket anyhow). You have to triple a man's salary to give him enough to make some appreciable change in his living standard. It also points out why I, unlike many, do support a graduated income tax: the declining marginal utility of money. After a point, after all, how many steaks can you eat? The problem now is that the graduation bites the butt of the 10-15,000/yr man rather than starting at twice that.

Anyone else want to chip in?)) J.M.

JOHN McELVANEY

44 Landmark Ct, Baltimore 21221

Sorry about the late moves last issue. These are going out on Sunday...hope they get to you on time. I'm sitting here watching the 'Skins vs the Pats. The 'Skins are winning now and I hope they continue. I see Miami is also losing today, so the Colt's (Jones definitely won't play) loss to Dallas Monday night won't be so hard to take.

Oh, yeah, congratulations on #1 in the zine poll, and your new home looks impressive, but where are the servant's quarters?

((We're the servants. I need point out to the readership that John's letter, while mailed Sunday, was postmarked Monday, meaning it got into a box that the Post Office didn't feel like picking up Sunday. The letter arrived here Thursday, too late to avoid an NMR for him (and his former Warsaw). They'll get you every time if you don't watch 'em, folks!

I wonder if even Miami's loss made up for the 38-0 trouncing that Baltimore took Monday night?)) J.M.

Mail Lost By Chute Since 1976

Detroit — (AP) — Between 1,500 and 2,000 letters dating back nearly two years have been found in a crawl space between the 15th and 16th floors of the City-County Building, postal officials say.

The officials said a repairman discovered during a routine check this week that a panel on the mail chute had popped off, and many letters dropped in the chute from above that point had flopped into the crawl space.

"The bill collectors have been after me ... please put my name in the paper so people will know I was telling the truth when I said I paid," said Ulysses Hammond, who is docket management clerk for the Wayne County Circuit Court.

Dennis Nott, director of customer services at the Detroit Post Office said "the best we can do is go ahead and return the mail which has return addresses and deliver the rest." He said the forwarded letters, dating back to December 1976, would carry an explanation.

The old 13-cent stamps would be accepted, he said.

Many workers in the building said they had been suspicious of the chute and had complained, stopped using it or both.

There was some confusion over why the mail stayed hidden so long.

Milton M. Levine, the building superintendent, said the Post Office was careless about returning the fiberboard test cards he dropped down the chute from time to time, so he couldn't tell anything was wrong.

Nott said, however, that repairmen had been dispatched to the building several times in the past few months.

((Contribution by Lee Kendter, Sr. publisher of WHY ME?))

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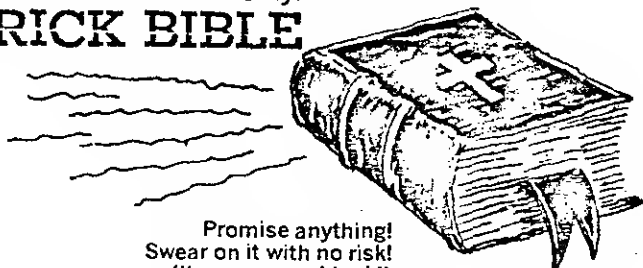


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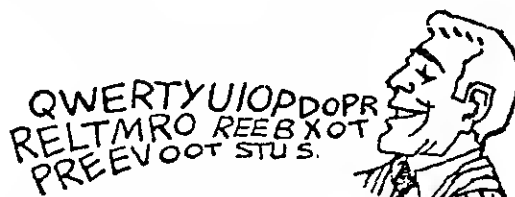


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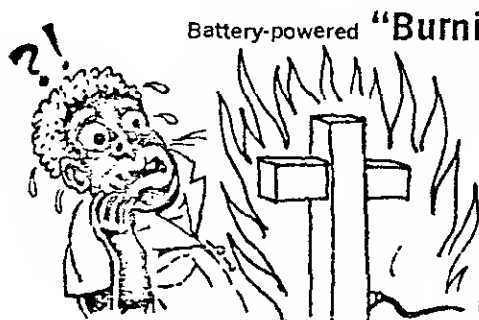
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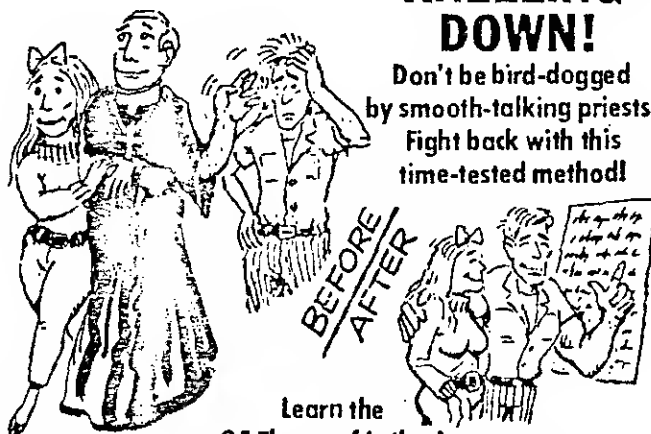
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LETTERS

ALAN ROWLAND

(COA:) P O Box 2173 College Station, Easton, PA 18042

Dear Person of Polish Extraction,
I continue to be amazed at the jokes, cartoons, and bumper sticker/tee shirt "quotations" you continue to print. You are, without a doubt, either from the 1950s middle-America we all know and love, or completely divorced from reality. Numerous t-shirts of similar ilk to the one in #19 are: "Happiness is a tight pussy", "Be healthy, eat your honey", "Make me an offer", and "Give yourself over to absolute pleasure". (The last is from TRHPS. I might add my personal favorite "Certified Muff Diver".) In bumper sticker dept. we find "Divers Do It Deeper" and "I love water sports".

Your jokes are poor, I'll tell you some decent ones. (God knows, the mule team might have arrived recently, so you might have heard them by now.) There was a flat-chested girl who was a bit downcast about her lack of big breasts. She decided to walk down the beach and mope a bit. However, since this terrible problem (it had a negative effect on her social life) was on her mind, she tripped over something in the sand. She picked herself up, brushed the sand off, and then began digging for the object she tripped over. After a few seconds she found a lamp of sorts. It was rather tarnished, so she began to rub it. Suddenly—FLASH—a genie appeared, startling the girl. The genie spoke "I am the genie of the lamp. You are my mistress, and may be granted three wishes". The girl thought briefly about her figure, and decided that she would use her first wish to improve it. She told the genie "I want the two biggest boobs in the country". "Certainly, mistress, your wish is my command". FLASH—and in a puff of smoke, Carter and Mondale appeared.

Congrats on winning best zine, your rating is not undeserved. The GM rating leads me to believe that it was rigged or most postal players (yours specifically) want to see loads of GM errors. I must take this into consideration when adjudicating my games. Besides, the GM poll has absolutely no guidelines anyhow..

Your stuff about Cal White giving it a good try is bullshit. He didn't give the job any try. I've talked to the Agostas three times and Cal White has not had the time to mail the stuff in three months. There are GMs waiting FIVE months for numbers. White does not return calls, reply to letters, or send out numbers. All he does is cash checks, period!! He has done the worst job of any BNC, even including von Metzke's and Walker's ill-fated tenures. He is a liar, an incompetent, rude, and a thief. His attitude sucks. If Beyerlein had not been so anxious to get rid of the Numbers they might not have ended up with an unemployed teen-age high school dropout. (The height of responsibility, the epitome of maturity, the paragon of dependability).

Regarding Oaklyn/Tretick-Walker, I have yet to see "proof" that Oaklyn and Tretick are the same people. This is vaguely reminiscent of a witch hunt. Simply get some proof and people such as Steve McLendon, Craig Reges, and myself might agree with Rod Walker, Conrad von Metzke, Cal White, Jim Benes, yourself and others.

I agree that the latest issue with the "guest GM/refusal to allow entry in the game" stuff is crap. To allow Bernie into the game would cause trouble. However, to allow (on Don Horton's part) guest GMs the right to choose who they will allow to play in the games they guest-GM is unusual, to say the least.

I'm really sorry about #31, #32, and 1978AD. ((Refers to his own WARMONGER))

((continued))

Alan Rowland, continued.

Roy and Wayne are to blame for the first and the third. Roy gave me his games five days after the deadline when he could have given them to me one day after the deadline. Then a broken xerox that Friday. Then the July 4th weekend came up. Thus that accounts for #31. As for 1978AD, me thinks Wayne was temporarily brain damaged. He sat on the game (fishing again me thinks) for a week. #32 is bizarre. I delayed it 3 days due to postal problems here in early August/late July. Then illness and out-of-town trips hit. It is a 24 page issue (being mailed tomorrow evening.) (My parents want me to go to the doctor to see if I have mono. I don't care to go, as a diagnosis of that sort will keep me home, or at least out of class for a few weeks. I'll take my chances. What is really unusual is that I don't know who I caught mono from if I have it. That's what I get for hanging out with some people of questionable morals.) I've also been drunk a lot recently. I have decided against doing THE WARMONGER when drunk (over the summer at least.) It will be unavoidable this fall.

THE WARMONGER is undergoing a major change. As of #34 I will be running my games tri/quadri-weekly; the guest -GMS quadri/penta-weekly. Size will be 8 pages. Prices will be rolled back. 1978AD will be run in the fast section for a while.

Well, 'tis time to sign off. I must run 3 or 4 miles today as well as pack for school. Effective 9/1 I go back to College Hill.

Give yourself over to absolute pleasure.

Alan "The Dreaded Party" Rowland

PS I wrote this out so you'll actually have to do some work on BB by typing this.

((OK, remind me to send your copy out on a 2¢ stamp. But, back to the beginning. Thanks for the joke, although it doesn't seem much different from what's been run here. What is TRHPS? The Rowland Heights Public School? Also, I don't see the humor in "I like water sports". The joke brings up a question I pose to the general readership: Isn't Carter popular ANYwhere?

On the poll, thanks. The GM part WAS a surprise, for as you say, the FIRST thing I'd like to improve, of all the things I'd like to change with BB, is to have error-free adjudications. Maybe what bailed me out was that when I do find an error, I call around and do all I can to make sure that the game keeps moving right along. Dropping to tight 2 week schedules would do it, but then I'd just be turning out "another" Dipzine. I really hate my oversights, but I'll continue the current tight schedule or hang it up. Lots of GMS avoid errors in printed adjudications, but they do so by the simple (for them) expedient of printing their monthly zine with a "1978XYZ:Delayed until next issue". Maybe players prefer GMS who goof but try to correct it quick, to GMS who run their games without error at one half of or one third of REAL TIME rate!

On Cal White: my comments were based mainly on his efforts to turn EVERYTHING into more than a list of game starts and endings. Apparently the workload has really burned him out, though. The copy of the latest EGB of his, plagiarized elsewhere in this issue, came with a note saying he hadn't published in two months (in way of explanation/response to my request for my \$2 back). I trust he is using all his time to ready things to ship over to Agosta. I'll hold off on criticism for now myself, since I doubt it would serve any purpose, and I can see from Ev and EGB that 1. he tried to improve on what was, and 2. failed only under what appears to be such a workload that it cost him his own zine's operations as well. I really think that the numbers should be separated from publishing EVERYTHING. Each is a full-time hobby job, and you're just not going to find enough Doug Beyerlein's who will do it all, consistently and well, for more than six months at a stretch.

On Oaklyn-Tretick, I'll refer you to Steve McLendon's letter elsewhere in this issue. If someone had originally had a picture of Oaklyn changing into Tretick in a DC phonebooth, there would be no problem, only an announcement. The thing is, when someone sneaks into the hobby under more than one name, the nature of the fraud itself means that something like Walker's statement on how FRONT is written in Buddy's old LA GUERRE style, or Oaklyn's own outrageous

Reply to Rowland, continued

(to me) statement that folks shouldn't be surprised if Buddy Tretick answers Bernie's phone, is as close to "proof" as you're likely to get. There is more, but what I've heard was only under strict anonymity notes; maybe Steve McLendon has some of that ready to run. From the start, all else being equal, I believe I can learn from other's mistakes, and have been inclined to accept the judgement of folks who were around then such as Walker, Metzke, Buchanan, etc. Also, as Craig Reges pointed out, there are some simple ways a REAL separate Oaklyn could have proven his independence of Tretick, but has failed to do anything I've seen except to launch printed counterattacks and his absurd 'discrimination' nonsense. Perhaps he's waiting for the arrival of some phony ID paperwork he sent off for when all this first started? Alan, if someone said you and I were the same person, how long would it take us to present solid evidence the other way to the hobby? One issue?

You say "to allow guest GMs the right to choose who they will allow to play in the games they guest-GM is unusual", which seems pretty unusual to ME. If you have a guest GM, do you tell him who the players will be and when to start and what country they get? It seems to me that if you allow someone to operate under your auspices, you necessarily must trust them enough to run a game, which certainly seems to me to include the gathering in of 7 people operating under their honest identity and of, if not competence, than at least excluding those you feel are fraudulent. Galen Workman has received my guidelines and suggestions on how to run his in this zine, but he also knows that they are just that: it is HIS game to run, and I leave it up to him. I offer a zine-of-record, a publication audience, and my standby guarantee to pick up the game if Galen poops out on the players and me; that's it. Don Horton appears to do the same, although he acts as clearing house for incoming applications due to the large number of guest-GMs he has. I would think any OTHER situation would be the unusual case. Comments, anyone?

Finally, I normally remove game-related stuff such as the 78AD stuff in this letter, but since it's just why-I'm-late-type stuff and since it ties in a little with some of what I had to say on this other topic, I left it in this time.)) Jm.

CONRAD VON METZKE

P O Box 626, San Diego 92112

The "Changing of the Guard"—to correct Craig Reges' misinformation in BB19—would occur as follows (or equiv.): A Hol-Bel; A Bel-Hol; F NTH C either one of them. Thus three units involved, unlike coastal crawl.

Craig's comments concerning Oaklyn/Tretick make absolutely no sense. Did you misprint something, or is Craig schizo? Whatever the meaning, you may wish to know that evidence has accumulated here to the point that we have elected to add Tretick (there is no Oaklyn, I'm convinced) to the DIPLOMACY WORLD Ignore List—players to be warned against, otherwise no comment. Such people as this are what make too many novices disgusted at the chaotic amateruishness, if not actual fraudulent behavior, of an otherwise pleasant hobby.

BB isn't a bad rag, though I don't think I'd have put it in first place in the poll—but keep trying. It's awfully hard for me to pay very serious attention to reprints of ravings from the lunatic right, but the rest of your material is decidedly worthy.

Final note—there is a Ron Kelly. In case anybody is worried. I've spoken too often and too pleasantly on the phone with him for the reverse to be true. McGovern in '80, Conrad

Reply to Von Metzke

((I had to make sure to include your closing, as it provides an ironic contrast to your remark about how it's hard to pay attention to the 'ravings of the lunatic right'. I viewed McGovern as the epitome of the lunatic left, and have always felt that it was only his seizure of the Democratic party that gave a moderate-conservative like Nixon a chance at victory. On the other hand, pity the poor man who might win for the Republicans if a laughing-stock such as McGovern really WERE to again be put forward for President seriously: look at what happened to ol' Nixon! Had Nixon really committed any crime, aside from not being a likeable guy, he would have been tossed out quick on his ear, like Agnew, who WAS a crook. Instead, the hardcore left took out their vengeance for McGovern's pitiful drubbing on the victor by pulling all stops on their weapons at hand, primarily the eastern press. By cramming "Watergate" bullshit, hearsay, wild charges without end in ever-growing absurdity in a way that would make Joe McCarthy grin with envy, they made the public so SICK of a nonsensical incident that the public cried "Crucify him!!", ANYthing, just to shut up this nauseating "Watergate" crap. If Nixon had had the charisma of a Kennedy, he might have turned the public rancor against the attacking press itself, but then, they would have used something else if Nixon had been able to ^{pull} such a thing. No, instead we'll see another and closer Ford-Reagan fight, killing what little chance the Republicans might have for '80, vs a much quieter dropping of the standard-bearer on the Demo side, resulting in a Democratic victory in an election that will rank high in voter apathy annals. That's my prediction. (The Demo will be some new, or now-little-seen face. McGovern would no more be nominated again than the Republicans would renominate Goldwater.) Everyone remind me of this prediction in early '80...

No, there was no misprint of Craig Reges' stuff; I'll let him reply if he chooses to elaborate, or feels it necessary. I run whatever people say, even if I can't make it out, thinking I'll let them cut their own throat. (Not Craig here, but perhaps applicable to parts of the Boardman letter...). IMPERIAL DIARY is the sole exception, but there, I understood it, I simply couldn't BELIEVE it. And sometimes they're saying something that for some reason just doesn't register with me at the time, but will later, and will to the audience. I really do appreciate the Tretick commentary in any case, as this is going to be a sort of 'special' in the amount of space devoted to this matter, and you & Walt certainly one of the cornerstone positions in the hobby. Also, Steve McLendon has sent me a copy of a letter from Oaklyn he ran that I'll rerun in an attempt to present what might be the 'other side'; there's little enough of that now, outside of the 'threat' of Federal intervention to protect Buddy Tretick's right to con the hobby again. It will be in here somewhere...at this writing, I can only see I'll have one hell of a time fitting all this stuff into one issue. Hopefully, this business will die soon. Maybe my first paragraph above will generate some response so we can all talk about something else next issue... Thaks again for writing.)) J.M.

STEVE McLENDON

Box 57066, Webster, TX

Per your request, I am sending you my original of the Oaklyn/Tretick letter to Jim Benes. I would like you to return it when you are through, though.

You misinterpreted what I had to say on this matter. I thought I made it quite clear that I was not taking sides with ANYONE. What bothered me was that accusations and counter-accusations were being printed all over the place without one shred of evidence from either side.

As hoped, my issue struck home, as I have now received, from several sources,

McLendon, cont'd

concrete evidence which proves to me beyond a doubt that Bernie Oaklyn is indeed Buddy Tretick. I will publish this evidence in my next issue. But my basic question remains: Why has not this evidence been published before?

As per your question on my slightly overweight issue: I do have some good friends at the local post office.

((I wish I was still with the local Post Office! You'd all be getting BB uncanceled the way Shaffer used to get letters from me while overseas. As an employee, I'd just take them in with me and put them into the system at an advanced point down the processing chain, getting them out quick and all but unhandled. And that money I used to make....

Thanks for sending it. I'm afraid I'll have to retype the thing, but, having seen STAR WARS ten full times now, what else is there to do on a Labor Day weekend but type letters for a huge issue of next week's BULLETIN? Too bad I don't know some of Rowland's friends "of questionable morals"....)) J.M.

OAKLYN LETTER to Jim Benes, courtesy of and reprinted in STEVE McLENDON's Dragon & The Lamb:

Dear Editor of DIPPY,

Your issue 9, dated July 16, page 1 refers. In that issue you make a rather vague statement in referring to a 'warning' published in DIPLOMACY WORLD about the gamezine entitled "La Guerre". However, your statement is one of innuendo in that it does not give particulars about the so-called 'warning'. I would like to take this time to give those particulars and request that you publish this letter in all fairness to me.

First of all, Rod Walker was somewhat of a friend of the legendary person named Buddy Tretick, onetime publisher of the Dipzine entitled LA GUERRE. Rod was so much of a friend and supporter of Buddy's that Rod himself gave his support in getting Buddy elected as President of the National Science Fiction Fan Federation, Diplomacy Division (I think I have that right). However, shortly after Buddy became elected, having received the votes of Don Miller, Rod Walker, and Len Lakofka, in part, Buddy decided that he, and I have this from Buddy's own lips and am quoting him with his permission, would not tolerate Rod Walker's dictatorial regime any longer, and Buddy wrote, and published in his zine, his 'succession from the Union', and further, started blasting Rod Walker in his zine LA GUERRE.

From that point on, both he and Rod produced so much paper that stock in the Post office rose three points. This, of course, was the onset of a private feud between Buddy and Rod.

Now along comes I, Bernie Oaklyn, moving to Potomac, Maryland, and badly in need of a FTF Diplomacy game. I telephoned around and was referred to Don Miller, who, himself, referred me to Buddy Tretick (who could not have been all that bad if Don Miller, an old timer in Diplomacy, referred me to Himself).

I looked up Buddy in the local telephone directory and visited with Buddy at his home. During our subsequent visits, Buddy discussed his feud with Rod Walker in very much detail. I had later decided to run a gamezine of my own, and like very much the simple variants that Buddy had once published, and decided that I would like to run those types of games. So I obtained Buddy's permission to run the games which he had copyrights to, and looked around for a title. Not being very good at titles, Buddy had to suggest one

Oaklyn-to-Benes, cont'd

to me, and suggested that I even use his old title, LA GUERRE, and I thought that would be fun, so I did.

No sooner than I went to press did Rod Walker blow up. Why, LA GUERRE in operation again? Never! Says Rod! And his horn started blowing once again. Why Rod rose from his very grave to blast out against Buddy, simply because Buddy would not bend to Rod every time Rod said bend. Worse than that, Rod started accusing Bernie Oaklyn of being Buddy Tretick. Now, what could be more absurd than that? Certainly Buddy is his own man. And, most certainly, I am my own man.

Shortly, after I started publishing, Buddy appeared at a face to face Dip game in Baltimore.

Now, I am tired of this farce. I surely feel that an apology is due me by all of you who have published words on a page without bothering to get the facts first. The fact is, sir, that I am not Buddy Tretick, and I am not responsible for anything Buddy might have done (and I say might!) years—years in the past. In fact, I am responsible for what goes in my gamezine. And in fact, Buddy Tretick is not responsible for what goes into my gamezine.

Since you published your statement on your 'yellow pages' in the Diplomacy section of your gamezine, I ask that you now publish this letter to the editor in that same section, with referral in your white pages. I feel that you owe me this much, if not much more because of the shadow you have cast on my person. Whats more, I can show you many letters from fellow Diplomacy players who have given very favorable comment on the quality of my zine, and some of those players date way back in this game of postal Diplomacy.

And, you, sir, have the prerogative of commenting on my gamezine yourself, without being led by some 'ancient God!' named Rod Walker.

And, further, I am sending you a deposit ticket from my personal bank account, which of course has my name on it. Certainly the bank has received positive proof that I am Bernie Oaklyn and not Buddy Tretick!

((The above is copied as closely as reasonably possible; I have run some of his paragraphs together, since almost every other sentence of the original was a new paragraph start, and didn't think the effect of most of it would be affected. I kept them where I thought it would make a difference, was grammatically correct, or couldn't tell what was meant by the author. The first line makes no sense technically, but that's the way the original has it; probably an uncorrected mistype or unfamiliar (to me) abbreviation or form. I should point out also that the LA GUERRE referred to has since changed its name to THE FRONT DE LIBERATION DU DIPLOMACY. I'll add an address if I remember to at work next week, where my back issues of this stuff is.)) J.M.

ZINE RECEIVED--

✓ BREW & REEFER, 8 pages, four sheets, from Roy Smith, 64 Addicks Rd, Westwood, NJ 07675. 1½¢ per page plus postage. #5 claims to be "the hottest thing to hit the Diplomacy scene since the invention of the stamp", in so far as it "is printed on marijuana impregnated paper!" Roy asks that subbers specify either original Columbian flavor or new Home Grown flavor when ordering. 'Darth Vader...only YOU could be so bold'--and only a friend of Alan Rowland would put out an issue with a claim like that!

✓ ALSO -- (since I have more space): WHY ME?, put out by the Kendter's, 4347 Benner St, Philadelphia 19135, has again arrived here of late, the latest issue carrying two games of Lee's SPACE STATION ULTRA variant reprinted here a few issues back and an announcement that their Youngstown is getting under way. S '01 next issue. (Sorry, no notes on rates, as that's at work also...) I think it's 10/350 J.M.

Mark L. Berch
492 Naylor Pl.
Alexandria, VA 22304

14 August 1978

Let me be one of the first to congratulate you on your first place finish in Leeder's zine poll. How do you figure us young whippersnappers elbowed aside such established favorites as Kunestone, The Mixumaxu Gazette and Diplomacy World? I think we've found somewhat specialized audiences, who are quite loyal. It does show that you don't have to run a lot of games to please your subscribers.

With regard to Reges' letter on the MNC, Cal put out five issues of Everything, not two. While I wish Dennis the best of luck, if he does not shut down or phase out his own zine (which has zillions of games), it is very likely that the exact same thing will happen to him. This is especially true if he tries to make the zine more than just a collection of game starts and ends, as Cal did.

Incidentally, was that "Mark" on page 8 supposed to be me? If so, I'd like to point out that, contrary to what you may think, liberalism is not the touchstone of my political opinions. I am not so much a liberal as a civil libertarian. This means, for example, that I agree with Bill Buckley, Jr (and Ann Landers for that matter) that marijuana should be decriminalized. And I disagree with liberals who rammed thru a bill in California limiting the sale of war toys.

Since you ignored my question last time, I'll repeat: If a GM makes a cloaked error, and the player who is aware of it (e.g. wrong build printed) decides that the error is in his favor, is he obliged to report it? Would you report it as a player?

The recent issue of Diplomacy Review just arrived, and it's kinda sad. Let me give you a quote: "Minutes of the last meeting...The Novice Project is in the final stage of organization. The choice of whom will run the novice zine and the organization of the package is remaining" This is utterly backwards. The most important thing is the person, not the "organization" of it. Once you've got a good person, listen to him and see how you can add to his ideas. That same page says that there were bills to authorize Ron Brown to start that zine, and another to authorize Matt Rosworm to do this. Meanwhile, elsewhere in the zine it is stated that Andy Cook is "coordinating" the zine, and in another paragraph, Cook is stated to be "working" on the zine. This is the same Cook who many months ago was supposed to be putting out a census. In that D2, it's still being talked about. That's the problem. Instead of doing things, they just talk incessantly about doing them. Aside from some subsidizations, I really can't see what's being done.

((One problem is that they can no sooner get started than it is time to hold another election. Like Jerry Jones pointed out, folks 'burn out' about mid-summer, and the organization has as its first priority, keeping the organization staffed and in existence. I'd like to suggest two-year terms, or even three. That way the officers would have the job to do without ducking out about the time they are about to begin, or conversely, should the whole thing be inclined to go to pot, it could expire without further ado. Another good indicator is that Bob Hartwig, nominal President of the IDA, has announced he's probably throwing in the towel after two more of his PODUNK NEWS. And he runs that with help already.

Cloaked errors: no: paragraph three, yes. Everything: I'm sure you're right. It is just that they come so seldom that I barely remember two. On the votes, I think it is because it is we who are supplying lots of stuff to read. Other than DW, most of whose readers were likely unaware of the Leeder poll, the other old-line Dipzines don't match our weight of material outside of games. In fact, you and I are light to sip on games. How many zines do you take to follow their games? For me, none. The voting clearly does show what they want. (And to some extent, who plugged the poll too!))

LETTERS

DAVE GRABAR

(4346 E Armel Court, Las Vegas, NV 89110)

Don't be surprised to hear from me. I'm not mad at you, I just disagree with the way you run your games. In fact, I feel you have the best zine out. I really enjoy reading it and support you. If someone asks me about a game, I recommend your zine as one of the best. As to Ola, Arkansas, I spent 2 weeks there this summer visiting relatives. Keep in touch.

((It's hard to when half the mail sent to your address comes back. I see Jim Bumpas also had a note in that regard. You really need to check with the local PO and see what's wrong. I wasn't really surprised by the postmark of Ola, Arkansas on a letter from Las Vegas, for I've seen stranger things while I worked at the Post Office; just curiosity. Glad you're enjoying BB, and I hope you're getting at least half of them!)) J.M.

BOB SERGEANT

(3242 Lupine Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46224)

I have to agree with some of your players. A deadline this short virtually dictates being able to phone orders in. If I were trying to co-ordinate with anyone, I would find it impossible. I don't use the phone as much as other players, and I would find this game impossible without it. As you say this is postal Diplomacy. ##### There is just enough time to get a letter back from another player before the deadline. But this requires no differences of opinion.

Anyway, that's only my preference.

((Deadlines this short force the players to think and coordinate AHEAD of time, agreeing that "if this happens, we'll do that; if that happens, you do such and I do so". From my own experience, just writing your ally upon receipt of results saying "I'm doing this:---" will often suffice, but for real planning, you MUST work ahead. For those who really NEGOTIATE, these fast games don't make it. But these fast games aren't designed for them. They're for people who will readily sacrifice all the sitting-around time in favor of ACTION. Finally, I see no reason that if needed, the players couldn't call each OTHER rather than me.)) J.M.

CRAIG REGOT wrote to protest, for the record, my interpretation of the houserule on "obvious oversights" as including a correction of Army to Fleet and vice-versa in a player's orders. For the record, you players should note that I do so interpret it. J.M.

LEE KENDT Sr wrote to say that I shouldn't take swipes at the publishers who charge 35¢ a copy for a two-sheet monthly product. He went on to point out all the expenses involved in his own operation, then added that I couldn't reproduce his own letter. I agree with Lee, as I've said numerous times, that one of the reasons I can do a good job with BB is that I can xerox a lot of stuff in less time than most pubbers; and I didn't think WHY ME? was quite in that category from what I recall of the latest issue, e.g., but I keep my position, as one of the many in the audience who is totally ignorant of the costs, that I do think 35¢ ought to bring more than two sheets a month. I guess I'm just living in the past...? Lee, I'd like to run your letter to let everyone in on some of the ~~xxx~~ costs and efforts involved, if you'll reconsider. J.M.

LETTERS

"alcala"
1273 crest dr.
encinitas ca 92024
29 august 1978

ROD WALKER

Dear John:

BB #19 here today; enjoyed reading it. Since you already have lengthy stuff from me, I'll limit myself to a few short comments.

Re: Buchanan. If "Oaklyn"/Tretick is getting his mail back (which I doubt), he is sending it to the wrong address. Conrad and/or I are in contact with Walt at least once a week. "Oaklyn" is obviously either lying or too stupid to address an envelope properly. Anyway, it is true that Walt is not very active in the hobby. And no wonder! He is working full time and getting a new degree, this time in engineering. He is phasing out his hobby activities.

Re: "Oaklyn" again. His conscientiousness in games proves nothing. As I believe I have said before, Tretick was one of the most reliable players in the hobby. He was in my games and I know from personal experience he was always on time, always precise with his orders, extremely neat (he always typed orders), dependable as the dickens.

He is now claiming that he was originally assigned Turkey into the game I'm GGMing in CLAW & FANG, and that he was subsequently expelled. For the record, he was never a player in the game. He was denied admission to the game under my HR which requires players to use their real names. Also for the record, if I had let "Bernie Oaklyn" into the game, and then discovered he was Buddy Tretick, I would have expelled him. That would be under HR 18, which forbids deception of the GM (and specifically defines violation of HR 3 as such) and states that players doing so will be expelled. "Oaklyn" has liked extensively about the C&F game, and has involved two innocent bystanders, Don Horton and the current Turkish player. For that reason, I plan an announcement in C&F that under no circumstances will I allow Tretick/"Oaklyn" into any game I GM.

I still regard this whole matter as closed and do not intend any further involvement unless (as in this instance) I have no choice...or unless I see some actual evidence that "Oaklyn" is who he says he is.

Ha! You think people are angry about "test tube" babies. Wait until the first successful male pregnancy (which is no more than 10 years off, and probably much less). I'm not kidding. I have a longish story in the works about a man carrying his first child, centering around the psychological issue of his changing sexual identification. You will forgive me if I don't discuss the technology involved: I don't want to get preempted on this and so far as I know I'm the only sf writer who has access to the relevant info.

Re: Prop. 13. As you probably know, I'm basically liberal on domestic issues. I opposed Prop. 13, and voted against it. However, that was not an easy decision. On one hand, I work for the County. (However, I have so much seniority there was little danger of losing my job). On the other hand, Jim and I own property here which houses our business and has quintupled in value since we bought it in 1975. Taxes are about to eat us alive.

(29 august 1978)

2.

Since Prop.13 passed, the reaction to it by government has convinced me it was a good thing. I was sure it was equivalent to burning down the barn to kill a rat. Maybe it was, but also maybe the barn needed burning.

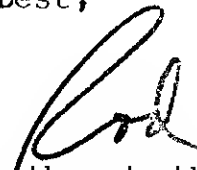
The unfortunate thing about 13 is that the politicians who run things are devoted to keeping them as cushy at the top as they were before. Not a single official has taken a cut in pay. They are taking the losses entirely out of the hides of the citizens they are supposed to service and out of the hired help. Fortunately, there is large-scale pressure to change that situation.

What I see this leading to will be two trends. First, the rise of a new crop of anti-politicians, people who are interested in getting government to operate and less in their own private ambitions. Second, the rise of a new breed of civil service: smaller in numbers, highly paid, highly skilled, extremely productive. Streamlined procedures, simplified regulations, and intensive use of computers will sustain this sort of government. There will be a trend away from political bickering and toward practical solutions to problems.

In short, the rise, gradually, of the technocracy which I've long been predicting would replace the current political order: with violence in some countries, but without it here. The State (I'll have to capitalize it at this point) will be far more impersonal and in the end more powerful, but conversely (and peculiarly) less intrusive.

It seems to me that the taxpayer's revolt will therefore have consequences different from and more far-reaching than anything its originators could have conceived. With any luck at all, it will pave the way for a whole new social order...because the demand for cheaper government is also a demand for more efficient government. The breed of ideologue politician who runs things here (as in the USSR and every other nation) can't deliver that. They will be replaced. If they don't go peacefully...well, you know what happened when the landed aristocrats refused to give it up. (I don't advocate; I only predict.) (However, inasmuch as we will sooner or later have to give up our lush quality of life for something else, we may as well prepare to do so with a certain degree of grace and style. Jerry Brown, although he is sometimes inconsistent with his own principles, is one person who points the way. Howard Jarvis is nothing but an unwitting tool in the hands of history. He is an ambitious and greedy man who has stirred up forces he will never understand and may not ever perceive.)

Best,



((I cannot share your optimism. All across society, the cuts that SHOULD be made are the last or, more often, never made at all. NYC cuts back the police budget, and they fire street cops, not administrators. Your auto is gov't-ordered to be Volkswagon-sized, so Detroit charges you \$6500 sticker price for the 1100lb cart you get instead of \$6910 for a loaded 77 T-bird, 4210lbs of performance and comfort and safety like I got...no matter what, the higher-ups salaries and the profits stay the same. You present a nice ideal, but personally I think its defeat at the hands of more pragmatic (if brutish) states is at least as likely as logical evolution upward.))

Also, you may be doing Jarvis a disservice. Perhaps rabble rousing is motivated by an unstated sense of historical destiny....?

Bureaucratic Blunders

A Presidential Panel on Mental Health has recommended that President Carter support ERA as a "primary strategy" to prevent mental illness among women. The panel also says federal funding of abortions would help mental illness in women.

* *

A new Massachusetts law requires that all insurance contracts be written in plain English, which is defined as English achieving a "minimum Flesch readability score of fifty." How does one determine the Flesch readability score? Simple, you "divide the number of words by the number of sentences, multiply by 1.015, add this to the number of syllables divided by the number of words, multiply by 84.5 and subtract the sum from 206.85."

* *

Martha Thomas, 28, is blind, but that didn't keep the Louisville, Ky., Motor Vehicle Licenses Bureau from renewing her driver's license. Ms. Thomas, who wanted the license for identification purposes, simply asked the Bureau clerk for a license renewal and was given it. She left the motor vehicle office using her white cane.

* *

A \$10,000 federal grant was the door prize at a meeting of Oklahoma Community Action Program directors last February. The grant was for a job in the Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) program.

* *

When a sex-offender mental patient in a Wisconsin institution formally complained that his pornographic materials were being withheld from him and that this was a violation of his rights, a state hearing examiner ruled that he could have the material "based on rational discrimination" on the part of the staff.

The man had a long history of molesting children. His materials included magazines, films, an inflatable plastic "love doll" and two electric vibrators.

The examiner, Ms. Susan Case, ruled that while the patient could not have materials "which depict aggressive sex or sex with children," a "rational" solu-

tion would be to permit him "either five magazines a month or one film a month and one of his vibrators."

(Donald J. Thomas)

* *

In a move to "desex" English, the Broward County School Board (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.) has decided to replace "he" and "she" with "e," and "him" and "her" with "ir." In order to give teachers the flavor of the new words, the board provided this example: "Terry Winters is a student who has missed ir bus. The janitor finds Terry and takes ir to the guidance office. Q. Why did e miss ir bus? A. E was afraid to go home. Q. How will e get home? A. E'll have to call father at work." They didn't indicate how the rest rooms would be labeled.

* *

The U.S. Transportation Department now admits that its \$225,000 study of how the nation's traffic would be af-

ected by an ice age in the year 2025 produced no useful results.

(Donovan W. Brown)

* *

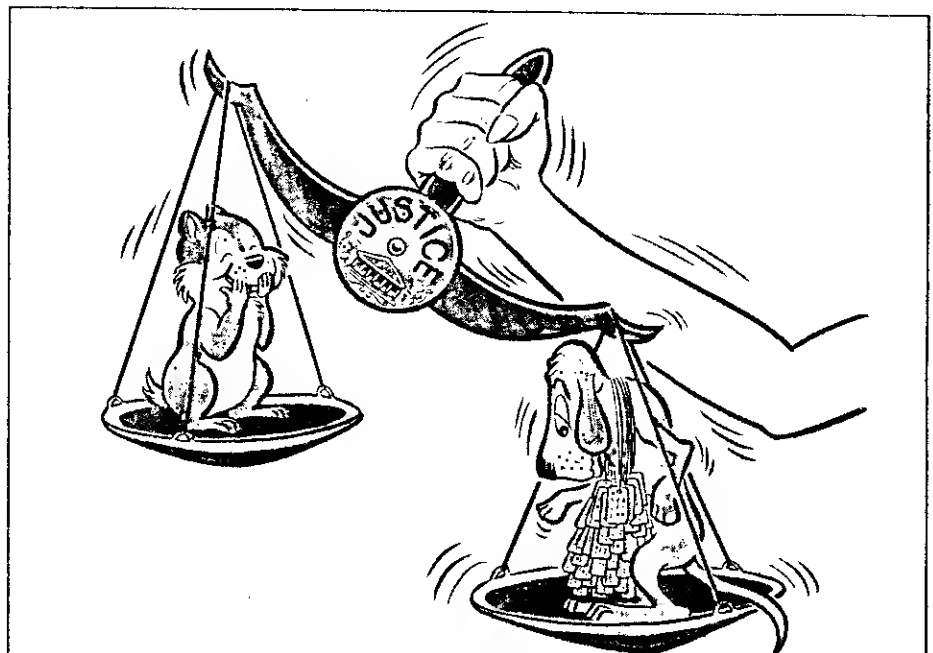
To help out Americans who are moving, the Interstate Commerce Commission is distributing the 33-page *Summary of Information for Shippers of Household Goods*. Nuggets of wisdom in the pamphlet include the following:

"If you are unpacking, see that boxes are pushed in corners of the appropriate rooms—keep them out of doorways.

"Get babies' and toddlers' beds made up first. Older children can 'settle in' themselves. (But check on their work, and be lavish with praise for their efforts—time enough later on to suggest rearrangements.)

"Get a workable place to cook in the kitchen, and a space to eat. Save for next week all the fine details of arranging each shelf.

"And smile! Your new job, new home, and new community are waiting to meet you."



Los Angeles municipal judge Mario Gonzalez has ruled that dog licenses are unconstitutional. He reasons that dog owners are denied equal protection of the law under the Fourteenth Amendment because "canaries, chinchillas, chipmunks, finches, gopher snakes, guinea pigs,

hamsters, hawks, king snakes, marmoset monkeys, mynah birds, parrots, parakeets, amazons, cockateels, cockatoos, lories, lorikeets, love birds, macaws, steep legal eagles, toucans, turtles, white doves, pigs, cows, horses, [and] sheep do not have to be licensed."

Around the Nation

California. Some California politicians are already asking the federal government to bail them out of **Prop. 13**. Jerry Brown has suggested that Congress give his state the \$2 billion Californians will not deduct from their income taxes because of lower property taxes, and Los Angeles mayor Tom Bradley wants federal funds to keep city employment constant.

Other California politicians are using scare tactics. Los Angeles school officials have threatened to fire two-thirds of their teachers, and San Francisco mayor George Moscone has proclaimed a state of emergency—though his budget is expected to shrink only 5 percent as a result of Prop. 13.

* *

Albany, N.Y. Across the country **Prop. 13** fever spreads. New York State Commerce Commissioner John S. Dyson wants a constitutional amendment that limits the total number of public employees to 3 percent of the population, a move which would lead to widespread dismissals of state and local government employees. Gov. Carey says the idea deserves consideration.

* *

Detroit. Addressing the semiannual meeting of the **Republican National Committee**, the NAACP's president, Benjamin Hooks, recommended that the GOP endorse Humphrey-Hawkins, ERA, freedom for the Wilmington 10, shift of taxes to middle and upper income groups, and affirmative action. RNC chairman Bill Brock said he had invited Hooks because "the NAACP is saying some important things on jobs, youth employment and urban problems that fit in with what we're trying to do."

* *

South Carolina. The U.S. Supreme Court has delayed until its next term (starting October) a decision on whether South Carolina may try for murder a physician who aborted an allegedly 25-week-old fetus. At issue is the constitutionality of a South Carolina law **prohibiting abortions** on fetuses more than 24 weeks old on the grounds they are "viable," that is, could live outside the mother's womb.

* *

University of California, Davis. The same university that wanted to prevent Allan Bakke from attending medical school has expelled six students who refused to participate in the university's **compulsory funding of abortion**.

* *

San Antonio, Texas. A U.S. district judge has found the **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's** claims against Datapoint Corp.—arising out of the firing of a trouble-making employee, Helen Sierra, in 1972—"groundless and unreasonable." "The charges were pursued," said the judge, "for the sole reason of increasing defendant's expenses and to increase the nuisance value of the suit." The case "was brought and prosecuted in bad faith," and the majority of the EEOC's claims "were frivolous and were known by the EEOC to be frivolous at the time it filed its initial complaint." The judge awarded Datapoint \$87,890 in legal expenses.

* *

New York City. Adopting a new tactic in its campaign against **J. P. Stevens**, the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union has employed former VISTA organizer Ray Rogers to isolate Stevens chairman James Finley from his fellow businessmen. Rogers is trying to drive E. Virgil Conway, chief executive of the prestigious Seamen's Bank for Savings, off the Stevens board and is calling on anti-Stevens activists to pressure New York Life Insurance chief executive Ralph Manning Brown Jr. to get off the Stevens board.

* *

Golden, Colo. After a 14-month strike, the **Coors** beer company has petitioned the NLRB (National Labor Relations Board) to decertify Brewery Workers Local 366 as bargaining agent for the company's production and maintenance employees.

* *

Stoughton, Wis. In an agreement with the **Teamsters** Local 695 the NLRB ordered the union "to cease engaging in mass picketing, hampering and/or blocking the ingress and egress of vehicles or persons; throwing rocks, stones, eggs, and tomatoes at, and breaking windows of buildings; threatening damage to vehi-

cles; throwing rocks, stones, eggs, and tomatoes at vehicles; slashing tires, severing air lines, cutting electric wires, and smashing headlights of vehicles; throwing soda or a like substance onto vehicles; smashing the windshields of vehicles; breaking off, bending or otherwise damaging the antennas and outside mirrors of vehicles; and spraying or splattering paint on vehicles."

The union was further ordered "to cease placing spiked boards beneath the wheels of vehicles; jabbing picket sign standards into the grills of vehicles; threatening employees with physical harm, with unspecified harm, and with picket signs and two by fours; hitting and jabbing employees with picket signs; hitting with fists, kicking, shoving, and spitting on employees; following vehicles driven by employees, forcing the vehicles off the road and beating the drivers; threatening employees with harm to their spouses; engaging in surveillance of employees; and in any like or related manner, restraining or coercing employees of Stoughton Trailers, Inc."

* *

Owensboro, Ky. The governing board of the Owensboro **Young Women's Christian Association** has cut its ties to the national YWCA because of, according to the Owensboro YWCA executive director, Jackie Peveler, the national YWCA's support for abortion, ERA, gun control, legalization of marijuana and gay rights.

* *

Indianapolis, Ind. The Church of the Brethren's annual conference passed a resolution urging members to turn in their **handguns** (to whom was not specified), the first time any denomination has passed such a resolution.

* *

Nationwide. A *New York Times*-CBS poll shows that 51 percent of Americans support a **Prop. 13** measure for their local communities, more than twice those opposed to such a measure. Public opinion expert Kevin Phillips sums up the flood of polls on Prop. 13 as follows: "Americans want spending cuts to focus on welfare, aid to cities and social services. In contrast, only a tiny minority is willing to endorse cuts in police and fire service."

by John Kidner

THE B.E.S.T.* on . . . The Name John

—*Bureaucratic Evaluation of Solutions and Tactics.

AS I WAS waiting out the last two hours till quitting time, I did some statistical research into the name John. I wondered how many of us in bureaucracy lived and worked under that name.

At first glance I found that there are over 40 congressmen who bear that honored name (it means a gift from Heaven), and Glenn was the first to make it something out of this world. I went further and found by doing a phone book sampling that there are probably about 17,138 Johns who are hard core bureaucrats instead of being elected ones.

Looking back through history, I found some rather clouful Biblical Johns: The Baptist, the Evangelist, the Divine, and the Disciple. To these are attributed the Gospel, Epistles and the Book of Revelations! And even in contemporary times, all at one period, there was a President named John (although often reduced to "John-F") and a Pope who was 23rd in a long sentence of Johns punctuated with Pauls and Piuses. Moreover, kings, actors, writers, patriots, diplomats and a bunch of Rockefellerers also bore/bear that good name.

But damme! There are times when I wish my name had been Maximilian, Sebastian or Gaylord or something that had the same Gibraltar-like dignity that once did the name John. As I consider what has happened to the reverence for that fine name, my prideful world begins to crumble.

I believe that the first crack that I noticed came circa World War II with the "Dear John" letter. Back then, any Tom, Dick or Harry who had been kissed off by the girl he left behind received an official notification that he had been replaced with a "D.J." letter.

This, I think, started the pejoration. Everything went down from there. Whoever heard of a "good John?" A "good Joe," yes. But a "good John?" Likewise, who ever heard of full-flapped, winter underwear being called "long Ralphs?" Nobody! Always "long Johns." And amid my miscellaneous knowledge of buildings and cities, is the fact that there are some 80 million residences in the U.S. and each has at least two toilets! Two Johns! Lord, that jolts me. "I gotta go to the John," they say cutely. Why don't they ever have to go to the Bob? The Clyde? The Jim?

The more I think about this side of my name, the more tarnished becomes the image and the less solid the sound. "Johnny-come-lately" is a hobo. Even in the more remote cathouses, the next trick is called — you guessed it. "Hurry up Sylvia. You got a couple of Johns waitin'." The sucker in a loaded dice or marked card game is a John. When a cop makes an arrest he "nails another John." A shill is used to con a John. A lagging intellect is referred to as a "dumb-John." Never a "dumb-George" nor — for ERA purposes — a "dumb-Jane."

I dwell on this and the coals are heaped on. My conscience assails me when I think how inconsiderate I was 25 years ago when I insisted that we name our son John. My great-grandfather, grandfather, father — all of us — Johns. So why not my own son?

John Craig we called him but wound up calling him Craig. Now I understand that this was a subconscious rejection of the references to tricks and toilets. Moreover, I was shaken by the thought that by calling him Craig we were, in sooth, making him a closet John!

Closet Johns are Johns who hide their John. Some do it behind an initial: J. Edgar Hoover was a closet John and if America wanted to apologize for making him do this, then they would call the new FBI building not the "Hoover Building" but "America's John." Others reshape the letters to spell Jack. I think Anderson, the columnist, is really a closet John because he prefers Jack. So, for that matter, did Jack the Ripper, come to think of it.

Well. There it is. What's in a name? One hell of a lot and mostly all bad in the case of John.

So, in spite of the Bakke decision, I should lobby to get legislation to prohibit the Civil Service Commission from hiring any more people named John. At least that's what my young assistant suggested the day I was discussing my problem with her. "Gosh!" she exclaimed. "Clive is a good name. So's Mark. So's Christian. So's . . . Gee. I could go on and on. But right now, I gotta go to the John."

— Jack Kidner

A note from your IDA via Jerry Jones:

The Getting Down On Ones Knees Department:

As you have read earlier the IDA is doing something. Whether or not it is what you've hoped for it is a start and for it to continue it will require one more thing, money. The Novice project will be a money losing project. The Publisher's Handbook will be lucky to stay even due to the cost of printing it in limited quantities for the few that would require such a handbook. The census may or may not make money. All that remains is Rod Walker's Handbook and dues. I am not asking those of you that are publishers to blindly endorse the IDA-NA but I am ~~askin'~~ pleading that you please announce that we are attempting to revive the IDA into a sound operation and that we require the support (you spell support...\$2 dues) of all Diplomacy players. Thank.

(Lost I heard, \$2 dues should go to BILL YOUNG, PO Box 907 Clearfield, PA 16830) Jm

What's Wrong with Quotas

Race has never been an area noted for rationality of thought or action. Almost every conceivable form of nonsense has been believed about racial or ethnic groups at one time or another.

Theologians used to debate whether black people had souls (today's terminology might suggest that *only* black people have souls). As late as the 1920s, a leading authority on mental tests claimed that test results disproved the popular belief that Jews are intelligent. Since then, Jewish IQs have risen above the national average, and more than one-fourth of all American Nobel Prize winners have been Jewish.

Today's grand fallacy about race and ethnicity is that the statistical "representation" of a group—in jobs, schools, etc.—shows and measures discrimination. This notion is at the center of such controversial policies as affirmative-action hiring, preferential admissions to college and public-school busing.

Affirmative-Action Hiring. "Representation" or "underrepresentation" is based on comparisons of a given group's percentage in the population with its percentage in some occupation, institution or activity. This might make sense if the various ethnic groups were even approximately similar in age distribution, education and other crucial variables. But they are not.

Some ethnic groups are a whole decade younger than others. Some are two decades younger. The average age of Mexican-Americans and Puerto Ricans is under 20, while the average age of Irish-Americans or Italian-Americans is over 30—and the average age of Jewish Americans is over 40.

This is because of large differences in the number of children per family from one group to another. Some ethnic groups have more than twice as many children per family as others. Over half of the Mexican-American and Puerto Rican population consists of teenagers, children and infants. These two groups are likely to be underrepresented in any adult activity, whether work or recreation, whether controlled by others or entirely by themselves, and whether there is discrimination or not.

Educational contrasts are also great. More than half of all Americans over 35 of German, Irish, Jewish or Oriental an-

From *Commentary*
Thomas Sowell

cestry have completed at least four years of high school. Less than 20 percent of all Mexican-Americans in the same age bracket have done so. The disparities become even greater when you consider quality of school, field of specialization, postgraduate study and other factors that are important in the kind of high-level jobs on which special attention is focused by those emphasizing representation.

Those groups with the most education—Jews and Orientals—also have the highest-quality education, as measured by the ranking of the institutions from which they receive their college degrees, and specialize in the more difficult and remunerative fields, such as science and medicine. Orientals in the United States are so heavily concentrated in the scientific area that there are more Oriental scientists than there are black scientists in absolute numbers, even though the black population of the United States is more than 20 times the size of the Oriental population.

Age Is a Factor

Attention has been focused most on high-level positions—the kind of jobs people reach after years of experience or education, or both. There is no way to get the experience or education without also growing older in the process, so when we are talking about top-level jobs, we are talking about the kind of positions people reach in their 40s and 50s rather than in their teens and 20s. Representation in such jobs cannot be compared to representation in a population that includes many 5-year-olds—yet it is.

The general ethnic differences in age become extreme in some of the older age brackets. Half of the Jewish population



Prof. Thomas Sowell

of the United States is 45 years or older, but only 12 percent of the Puerto Rican population is that old. Even if Jews and Puerto Ricans were identical in every other respect, and even if no employer ever had a speck of prejudice, there would still be huge disparities between the two groups in top-level positions, just from age differences alone.

A Hard Look at "Benefits"

Virtually every underrepresented racial or ethnic group in the United States has a lower than average age and consists disproportionately of children and inexperienced young adults. Almost invariably these groups also have less education, both quantitatively and qualitatively. The point here is not that we should "blame the victim" or "blame society." The point is that we should, first of all, talk sense! "Representation" talk is cheap, easy, and misleading; discrimination and opportunity are too serious to be discussed in gobbledygook.

The idea that preferential treatment is going to "compensate" people for past wrongs flies in the face of two hard facts:

1. Public-opinion polls have repeatedly shown most blacks opposed to preferential treatment either in jobs or college admissions. A Gallup Poll in March 1977, for example, found only 27 percent of nonwhites favoring "preferential treatment" over "ability as determined by test scores," while 64 percent preferred the latter and 9 percent were undecided. (The Gallup breakdown of the U.S. population by race, sex, income, education, etc. found that "not a single population group supports affirm-

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The average Mexican-American is under 20 years old and the average Jewish American is over 40; so why should the two ethnic groups be equally represented in the professions?

ative action.")

How can you compensate people by giving them something they have explicitly rejected?

2. The income of blacks relative to whites reached its peak before affirmative-action hiring and has declined since. The median income of blacks reached a peak of 60.9 percent of the median income of whites in 1970—the year before "goals" and "timetables" became part of the affirmative-action concept. "In only one year of the last six years," writes Andrew Brimmer, "has the proportion been as high as 60 percent."

Before something can be a "compensation," it must first be a benefit.

If blacks are opposed to preferential treatment and whites are opposed to it, who then is in favor of it, and how does it go on? The implications of these questions are even more far-reaching and more disturbing than the policy itself. They show how vulnerable our democratic and constitutional safeguards are to a relative handful of determined people.

Some of those people promoting preferential treatment and numerical goals are so convinced of the rightness of what they are doing that they are prepared to sacrifice whatever needs to be sacrificed—whether it be other people, the law or simple honesty—in discussing what they are doing (note "goals," "desegregation" and similar euphemisms).

Other supporters of numerical policies have the powerful drive of self-interest as well as self-righteousness. Bureaucratic empires have grown up to administer these programs, reaching into virtually every business, school, hospital, or other organization. The rulers and agents of this empire can order employers around, make college presidents bow and scrape, assign schoolteachers by race, or otherwise gain power, publicity, and career advancement—regardless of whether minorities are benefited or not.

Preferential Admissions. Preferential admissions to colleges and universities are "justified" by similar rhetoric and the similar assumption that statistical underrepresentation means institutional exclusion. Sometimes this assumption is buttressed by notions of "compensation" and a theory that, 1) black com-

munities need more black practitioners in various fields, and 2) black students will ultimately supply that need.

The idea that the black community's doctors, lawyers, etc. should be black is an idea held by white liberals, but no such demand has come from the black community, which has rejected preferential admissions in poll after poll. Moreover, the idea that an admissions committee can predict what a youth is going to do with his life years later is even more incredible—even if the youth is one's own son or daughter, much less someone from a wholly different background.

These moral or ideological reasons for special minority programs are by no means the whole story. The public image of a college or university is often its chief financial asset. Bending a few rules here and there to get the right body count of minority students seems a small price to pay for maintaining an image that will keep money coming in from the government and the foundations. When a few thousand dollars in financial aid to students can keep millions of tax dollars rolling in, it is clearly a profitable investment for the institution. For the young people brought in under false pretense, it can turn out to be a disastrous and permanently scarring experience.

People Become Statistics

The most urgent concern over image and over government subsidies, foundation grants and other donations is at those institutions which have the most of all these things to maintain—that is, at prestigious colleges and universities at the top of the academic pecking order. The Ivy League schools and the leading state and private institutions have the scholarship money and the brand name visibility to draw in enough minority youngsters to look good statistically.

The extremely high admissions standards of these institutions usually cannot be met by the minority students—just as most students in general cannot meet them. But in order to have a certain minority body count, the schools bend (or disregard) their usual standards. The net result is that thousands of minority

students who would normally qualify for good, nonprestigious colleges where they could succeed are instead enrolled in famous institutions where they fail.

For example, at Cornell during the guns-on-campus crisis, fully half of the black students were on academic probation, despite easier grading standards for them in many courses. Yet these students were by no means unqualified. Their average test scores put them in the top quarter of all American college students—but the other Cornell students ranked in the top 1 percent. In other words, minority students with every prospect of success in a normal college environment were artificially turned into failures by being mismatched with an institution with standards too severe for them.

When the top institutions reach further down to get minority students, then academic institutions at the next level are forced to reach still further down, so that they too will end up with a minority body count high enough to escape criticism and avoid trouble with the government and other donors. Each academic level, therefore, ends up with minority students underqualified for that level, though usually perfectly qualified for some other level.

The end result is a systematic mismatching of minority students and the institutions they attend, even though the wide range of American colleges and universities is easily capable of accommodating those same students under their normal standards.

Role of Financial Aid

Proponents of "special" (lower) admissions standards argue that without such standards no increase in minority enrollment would have been possible. But this blithely disregards the fact that when more money is available to finance college, more low-income people go to college. The GI Bill after World War II caused an even more dramatic increase in the number of people going to college who could never have gone otherwise—and without lowering admissions standards.

The growth of special minority programs in recent times has meant both a

greater availability of money and lower admissions standards for black and other designated students. It is as ridiculous to ignore the role of money in increasing the numbers of minority students in the system as a whole as it is to ignore the effect of double standards on their maldistribution among institutions. It is the double standards that are the problem, and they can be ended without driving minority students out of the system. Of course, many academic hustlers who administer special programs might lose their jobs, but that would hardly be a loss to anyone else.

School Busing. It is chilling to hear parents say that the worst racists they know are their own children. Yet such statements have been made by black and white parents, liberals and conservatives, and without regard to geographical location. It is commonplace to hear of integrated schools where no child of either race would dare to enter a toilet alone. The fears and hatreds of these schoolchildren are going to be part of the American psyche long after the passing of an older generation of crusading social experimenters. It is quite a legacy to leave.

The ringing principles of equal rights announced in the 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education* have been transformed by 20 years of political and judicial jockeying into a nightmare pursuit of elusive statistical "balance." The original idea that the government should not classify children by race was turned around completely to mean that the government must classify children by race.

The fact that the racial integration of youngsters from similar backgrounds has worked under voluntary conditions was seized upon as a reason for forcing statistical integration of schoolchildren, without regard to vast contrasts of income, way of life or cultural values. Considerations of cost, time, feelings or education all give way before the almighty numbers.

Egos Involved

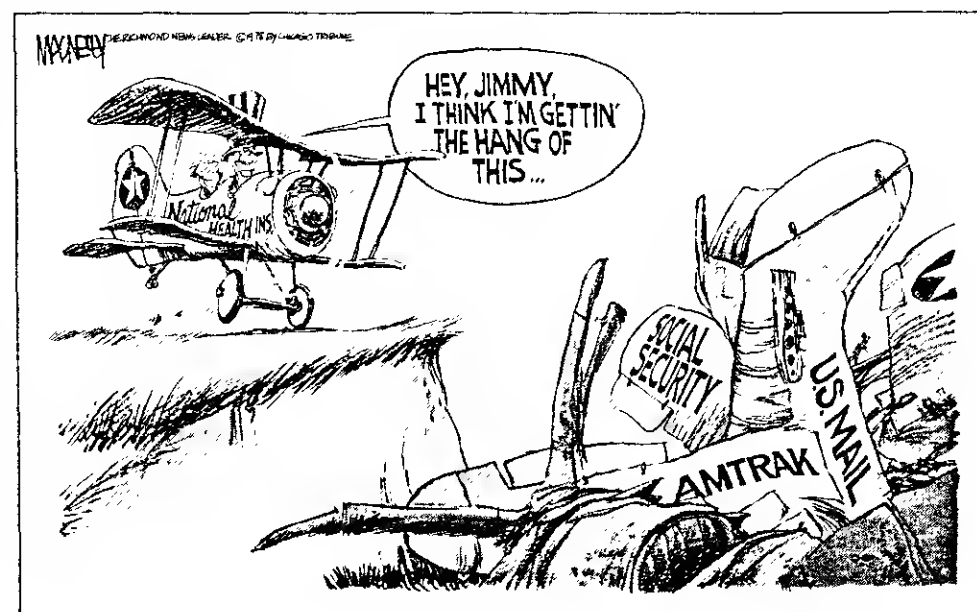
As more and more evidence of negative consequences to the children has piled up, the original notion that this was going to benefit somebody has given way to the idea that "the law of the land" has to be carried out, even if the skies fall. Less grandly, it means that judges cannot back off from the can of worms they have opened without admitting that they have made asses of themselves.

The civil-rights establishment has a

similar investment of ego and self-interest to protect. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund now insists that the issue is not "educational" but "constitutional." This might be an understandable position for an academic association of legal theorists, but not for an organization claiming to speak in the name of flesh-and-blood black people—people who reject busing in nationwide polls and who reject it by large majorities in cities where it has been tried. The head of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund brushes this aside by saying that they cannot ask "each and every black person" his opinion before proceeding, but the real question is whether they can consistently go counter to the majority opinions of the very people in whose name they presume to speak.

The tragic Boston busing case shows all these institutional ego forces at work. Local black organizations urged Judge Garrity not to bus their children to South Boston, where educational standards were notoriously low and racial hostility notoriously high. Both the NAACP and the judge proceeded full speed ahead anyway. Black children were forced to run a gauntlet of violence and insults for the greater glory of institutional grand designs.

In Detroit, Atlanta and San Francisco the NAACP also opposed local blacks on busing—including local chapters of its own organization in the last two cities. The supreme irony is that Linda Brown, of *Brown vs. Board of Education*, has now gone into court to try to keep her children from being bused.



IDA Happenings

straight from DR 7-3

Minutes of the last Meeting?!

The Novice Project is in the final stage of organization. The choice of whom will run the novice zine and the organization of the package is remaining.

The IDA-NA is asking for someone to run the Novice Project.

The IDA-NA is asking for someone to run the Variant Project.

((I guess I heard it somewhere before.))

The Council wants to receive a financial statement from the BNC before raising the subsidy.

Bill: 78.26 Would assign Bill Young to the Treasury. (In debate July 29, 1978)

Bill 78.24 Assigns Craig Reges as the Special Projects Editor (Passed 6-0)

Bill 78.25 To authorize awards at DipCon for outstanding zines, publishers, etc.) (Withdrawn due to limited amount of time prior to Convention)

Bill 78.22 To subsidize BNC (Still in debate awaiting statement from BNC--July 29, 1978)

Fred Davis is the official representative of the IDA-NA on the Diplomacy Variant Commission.

Ron Kelly has decided not to do a History of Postal Diplomacy. (Anyone interested?)

Bills introduced:

78.27 To authorize Ron Brown to start the IDA-NA Novice Zine.

78.28 To authorize Matt Roswurm to start the IDA-NA Novice zine.

(Both zines would be protected by the IDA-NA.

78.29 Authorizes the site of DipCon to be rotated each year through the Eastern, Central and Western regions.

Eastern Region: All Atlantic Seaboard States plus Vermont, Ohio W. Virginia,,D.C., and the Canadian Provinces fo Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick.

Central Region: Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, N. & S. Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas and all states in between plus the Canadian Province of Manitoba.

Western Region: Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and all states West, plus the Canadian Provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

78.30 Requests that FTF players and PBM players be separated on the first round of future DipCon tournaments.

78.31 Authorizes the contract with Rod Walker to produce the "Guide to Postal Diplomacy".

Of course I realize that these are not Minutes in the true sense of the word but then neither ar our meetings but I think that you get the idea as to what's going on.

So to finalize whats been asked:

1. Can you write something for the Publisher's Hanbook on ditto?
2. Are you interested in becoming the Variants or Novice Director?
3. Can you add any ideas to the Novice Package?
4. Do you wish to run for a seat on the Council or do you wish to nominate someone?
(by Sept. 3rd)

See you the middle of September.

THANK. ((Jerry Jones
1854 Wagner St.
Pasadena (A 91107))

From: Konrad H. Baumeister
11416 Parkview Lane
Hales Corners, WI 53130 USA

Re: EGGNOG

Gentlemen:

For quite some time now, I have wanted to expand my CLAW & FANG subzine EGGNOG (which currently runs three games), and have finally decided to take the plunge. However, I have secured against my going over the deep end. Hence, on October 1, 1978, the first full-blown issue of EGGNOG will be mailed out to those bright people that have subscribed by then. (The games currently running in the subzine will continue to be run via CLAW & FANG, in "half-issues" of EGGNOG.)

I envision the zine as follows: It would carry no more than three regular Diplomacy games, unless I could get ahold of a reliable guest Gamesmaster, something I wouldn't want to chance in my first year. There would be room for two or three variant Diplomacy games. I intend to work out postal rules for several war-games, and hopefully will be able to get together trial games to test the systems. That, however, will depend on my subscribers. Last but surely not least, EGGNOG will be quasi-monthly, with between eight and twelve pages each issue (without envelopes, so that twelve pages will still go under the one-ounce limit). Considering all of the variants that I have in stock, you can also expect several variants to be reprinted, map, rules, and all. And I have no intention of ignoring articles; at present, I have enough of my own material to print an entire year's worth of EGGNOG. (Any articles written by the readership will be considered for publication, and, if published, will receive remuneration via subscription extensions. Such articles are actively solicited.)

As for fees: Subscriptions would run 10 issues for a measly \$3.50. This is really strictly average, as many, many pubbers seem to be charging 10/\$4 and up. What's more, every year there would be one or two special issues, running up to 24 pages of published material. Make checks out to "Konrad H. Baumeister.

Gamefees, which will vary from game to game, but will never run higher than \$3, shall be waived for the period prior to the mailing of the second issue. Hence, it makes good sense to sign up for those games now, before Gamefees are reinstated. Currently open are two regular Diplomacy games, one Youngstown variant (10 players, where Asia is added to the standard board). and Fred Davis' excellent Swiss Diplomacy II (8 players, where Switzerland is not only passable, but a major power to boot). Send preference lists for all games, or you get what's left over! Suggestions for other games will be considered, of course.

Naturally, offers for Trades will be welcomed with open arms. Also, any and all plugs will be much appreciated, and I will reciprocate to the best of my ability. If you have any suggestions as to how the zine should be run, feel free to send in as many as you like. Even if not all are used, I will be very thankful for the interest shown. Comments of any length regarding EGGNOG will be welcomed, whether critical or complimentary; I truly want EGGNOG to be the zine you wish it to be!

Lastly, I hope that you will consider subscribing to and playing in EGGNOG, Issue #1 (by your count; otherwise in reality) will contain such gems as "The Numbers Game," explaining what I just hinted at above, and why it is all so totally screwed up beyond belief, "The EGGNOG Story," going back to the foundation (1971) and ridiculous past of our zine, hopefully a few Gamestarts, the Editor's comments, Houserules, and much more!

((Konrad is only in his mid-teens I believe, but is a good player and pretty good writer. I'd suggest watching this one, although I doubt that the 1-oz limit will allow for much of the maps/games/articles/variants on 6 sheets. And what is "quasi-monthly"?))